

## **Code of Conduct - Valleycliffe Elementary 2018/19**

The primary objective of the Code of Conduct is to enable both staff and students to meet their needs in a way that not only works for them, but also respects the needs of others and addresses prohibited grounds of discrimination as set out in the B.C. Human Rights Code. The Human Rights Code states the following: “The prohibition of discrimination on the basis of an individual’s or a group’s race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, gender identity or expression, or age.”

The School Board in its policy on student conduct, states that the school must be a place for orderly, purposeful high quality endeavours, within a pleasant, positive and supportive atmosphere of human interactions.

Among the student behaviours and attitudes that the Board expects to be evident in the school are the following:

1. **Respect:** Students should show respect for people, property and the mission of the school. They should respect the rights, responsibilities and privileges of themselves and other students, as well as the adults in the school. All students shall behave in a manner that is caring, friendly and safe. As students mature, our expectations for their behaviour increase.
2. **Responsibility:** Students should gradually assume more responsibility for themselves, (as individuals and as members of society) as they get older. They should become responsible for undertaking, organizing and engaging in their learning.
3. **Quality:** Students should meet or exceed school standards for language, dress, attendance, and behaviour and strive for excellence in all their school endeavors.
4. **Attitudes:** Students should display enthusiasm, inclusiveness, diligence, and sportsmanship in all their school endeavors. They are expected to be positive, to participate willingly in school activities and to undertake them in a co-operative spirit and a sense of justice and fair play.

Specific Expectations:

1. It is expected that no student shall tease, harass, threaten, physically or verbally abuse another student or adult in the school, or on the way to or from school, or with use of the internet, cellular phone, or any other electronic device.
2. Electronic devices are encouraged to be left at home however may be used at the teachers discretion for learning purposes. Devices are limited to in class time, no devices before/after school or during breaks.
3. There shall be no retribution against an individual(s) who has reported an incident.
4. No student shall touch another student inappropriately.
5. No weapons of any kind, real or replica shall be brought to school. This includes pen knives, cap guns and other sharp or dangerous objects.
6. No students shall be in possession of matches, lighters, fireworks, firecrackers or explosives of any kind.
7. Theft, the act of stealing; the wrongful taking and carrying away of the personal goods or property of another is not allowed.

8. Students, staff and parents are expected to support a learning environment where attire is appropriate. Clothing worn to school should be appropriate for the weather, allow freedom of movement, and not contain printing or pictures that depict alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, contain sexual innuendoes, inappropriate language, or racial slurs.

#### Violation of School Code of Conduct:

The severity and frequency of unacceptable conduct, as well as the age, maturity and special needs of a student, will be considered in determining the appropriate disciplinary action. The Principal or their designee may immediately apply School Board Policy #5135 and the student may be suspended from school for 1 to 5 days, or beyond that, suspended pending a School Board hearing.

The teaching and reinforcement of social responsibility and pro-social behaviours are more effective in establishing and maintaining high discipline standards than punishing students for inappropriate behaviour. The school will make every effort to support the student by determining the root cause of the behaviour and respond accordingly.

Whenever possible, incidents will be resolved by restorative and supportive practices such as:

- Class conference/meeting
- Mentoring program/asset building
- Mediation/Conflict Resolution including peer mediation
- Family Group Conferencing/Elder Circles/Circle Process (restorative justice)
- School-based team involvement
- Counseling (in school or referral to out of school professional)
- Collaborative Problem Solving
- Social Skills training
- Restitution
- Reflection time

In some serious situations, in-school or out-of-school suspensions may be necessary.

Parents will be informed by the school of serious or repeat violations of the School Code on Conduct, and violation of other policies regarding student behavior.