

# VEDDER ELEMENTARY CODE OF CONDUCT

## Purpose

As a Learning Community at Vedder Elementary, we provide a nurturing environment for students to achieve high standards and to become respectful, responsible, and contributing members of society. Our Code of Conduct takes into account the rights, freedoms, and responsibilities of both individuals and the school community, and clarifies behaviour expectations that are acceptable and unacceptable.

The Code of Conduct is established to maintain a safe, caring and orderly environment for purposeful learning for all students. Students are responsible for respecting the rights and dignity of others in learning environments, free from discrimination as set out in the B.C. Human Rights Code.

## Conduct Expectations

Our Code of Conduct is designed to teach children to make choices with a focus on:

- **behaving** and acting in a positive manner;
- putting forth their best **efforts** and engaging in purposeful learning;
- demonstrating positive **attitudes** towards learning, self and others;
- **respecting** self, others and belongings in the environment;
- contributing to a **safe**, caring and orderly school community

It is understood that as students become older and more mature, expectations of increasing responsibility and self-discipline will be evident. This may lead to increasing consequences for inappropriate behaviour, as children reach higher in grade.

## Expectations of Conduct

Expectations apply to behaviour at school, during school organized or sponsored activities, and behaviour beyond these times. Any electronic forms of harassment negatively impacts the safety of our learning community and will not be tolerated.

We hold high expectations for student conduct at Vedder Elementary. As described in the B.C. Humans Rights Code, we believe students and staff have the right to an environment free from harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender identity or expression and age.

## Acceptable Conduct

While going to and from the school and while attending any school function, including field trips, students are expected to:

- respect self, others and the school
- respect the property of others and the school
- attend regularly and punctually
- inform an adult of any unsafe behaviour

## Unacceptable Conduct

Behaviours and acts that interfere with the learning of others, with an orderly environment or create unsafe conditions are considered unacceptable.

All behaviours are not listed in the Code, but these cited are examples.

Examples:

- \* Vandalism
- \* Weapons
- \* Illegal substances
- \* Lying/cheating
- \* Bullying (verbal/physical/on-line or cyber bullying)
- \* Intimidation
- \* Theft
- \* Non-compliance/defiance
- \* Harassment/racism
- \* Violence

## Consequences

When a student chooses actions detrimental to self or the school community, there will be a series of consequences. The severity and frequency, age and maturity of the students are taken into consideration when unacceptable conduct occurs.

Responses to such behaviours are consistent and fair. Considerations may apply to students with a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature when determining appropriate disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action, whenever possible, is an opportunity to learn which is restorative, rather than merely punitive. As often as possible, students are encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences using:

- problem solving/ restorative conversations, such as circle
- contracts/school public service
- counselling
- suspension

## Notification and Communication

At Vedder Elementary, we share a responsibility to protect every teacher's right to teach and every student's right to learn.

The classroom teacher handles most issues arising from classroom behaviour. Issues are referred to the Vice-Principal or Principal if they are major offences or a repeated pattern.

School Staff have a responsibility to inform other parties of a serious breach of conduct. (Eg. Parents, school district officials, police and/or other agencies)