



WEST SECHELT ELEMENTARY

A Vibrant Learning Community

WEST SECHELT ELEMENTARY CODE OF CONDUCT

PURPOSE

The West Sechelt Elementary Code of Conduct is designed to support our full community in a respectful, responsible, safe, and kind environment for learning and working.

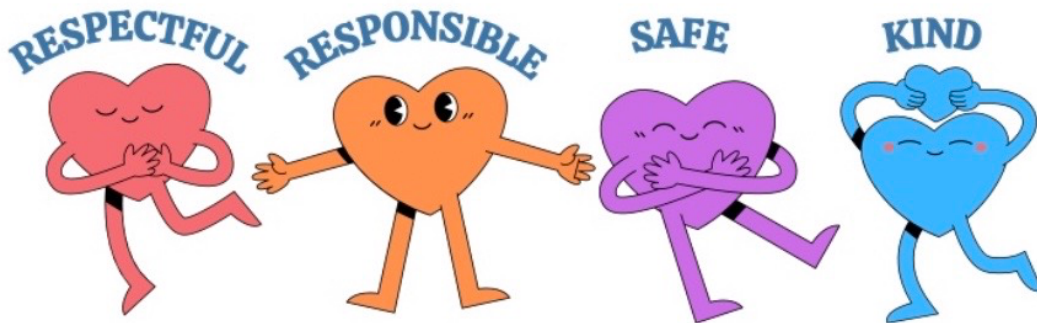
This includes conduct (behaviour) on school property and extended experiences that take place on campus (field trips, school sponsored trips, sports games, etc.).

BC HUMAN RIGHTS CODE

Members of our school community support the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law-prohibiting discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, relation marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression of age.

At West Sechelt Elementary, the conduct of students should contribute to respectful, responsible, safe, and kind learning environment.

Students are expected to know, understand, and follow the school's code of conduct.



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ACCEPTABLE CONDUCT

The following are examples of acceptable behaviours (this is not a full list of course):

- Treat others the way you want to be treated
- Accept people for who they are
- Make good choices
- Consider other people's feelings
- Treat people with kindness
- Use appropriate language
- Be accountable for your decisions and actions
- Be inclusive of others
- Tell an adult of incidents of bullying, harassment or intimidation in a timely manner

UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT

The following are examples of unacceptable behaviours (this is not an exhaustive list):

Behaviours that:

- Interfere with the learning of self or others, including emotional well being
- Interfere with a respectful, responsible, safe, and kind environment
- Create unsafe conditions inside and outside of the school

Acts, such as:

- Bullying, discrimination, harassment, or intimidation
- Physical violence
- Retribution against a person who has reported incidents

Illegal acts, such as:

- Possession, use, or distribution of illegal or restricted substances
- Possession or use of weapons
- Theft or damage to property

CONSEQUENCES FOR UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT

Disciplinary action will take into consideration the severity and frequency of unacceptable conduct as well as the age, maturity, and diverse needs of the student.

Wherever possible, restorative and preventative (rather than punitive) consequences will be the focus.

Students are encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences for violations of the established code of conduct and are given the opportunity to provide restitution (repairing the harm).

We view misbehaviour as an error in judgment (ie., the student made a poor choice) and is an opportunity for further learning. Certain behaviours are totally unacceptable at West Sechelt Elementary and will result in immediate discipline, which may include an in-school or



at-home suspension. These behaviours include: fighting and violence against other students or staff members, bullying, harassment and intimidation, defiance, possession or use of weapons, theft, or damage to property.

Discrimination as set out in the BC Human Rights Code (defined as the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories or people of things, especially on the grounds of race, age, sex or gender identity).

RISING EXPECTATIONS

As students grow older and advance through the grades, the expectations for their behavior and sense of responsibility increase. There is also a greater expectation for them to make more mature decisions concerning their own rights and responsibilities, as well as those of others. Consequently, the consequences for inappropriate or disrespectful behavior may vary depending on the student's age, cognitive development, and any special needs. These factors will be taken into account when providing consequences or learning opportunities, enabling students to learn from their mistakes and make better decisions while exhibiting appropriate behavior.

It is recognized that as students mature and progress through the grades, the school expects a higher level of personal responsibility and self-discipline, along with increasing consequences for unacceptable conduct.

NOTIFICATION

In cases of serious misconduct, the school will notify parents. School district officials, the police and other agencies may be informed when required by law, school regulation or when otherwise appropriate.

VTRA FAIR NOTICE

As part of our Safe Schools policy, we would like to remind all parents of our VTRA (Violent Threat Risk Assessment) process that is used in our District to keep all students and staff safe. We, as a school district, have been involved in intensive safety training with our community partners – the RCMP, Ministry of Children and Family Development and other community agencies and services. Together, we have developed a plan for responding to all situations in which students may be posing a threat to themselves or others.

This plan requires principals to complete a “threat assessment” in all cases of students making significant threats to harm themselves or others. The purpose of the assessment is to determine how best to support high-risk students so that their behaviour does not become hurtful or destructive. If your child comes home to tell you that a student has behaved in a threatening way at school, please be assured that your principal will be taking measures to deal with the situation in a positive and proactive manner. If your principal invites you to a meeting to discuss safety concerns about your own child, please be assured that policy is being followed and that the goal is safety, not punishment.

This is intended to serve our community with fair notice that we, as a school community, will not accept “no response” to a serious threat. Our goal is to respond to all threats in a professional manner that provides for a healthy and caring learning environment. We are proud to be able to provide this level of support to our school communities and are most fortunate to have our community partners at our side.

For more information on our VTRA/Fair Notice process, please refer to our school district website at <https://sd46.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/VTRA-Fair-Notice-Letter-for-families.pdf>

CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONICS

We have a cell phone free environment at West Sechelt, which is in line with the British Columbia restrictions for cell phone use in schools. We do not allow cell phones at our school. If you believe you must send your child to school with a phone, please note the following: Students must keep their phones turned off on school property and stored in their backpacks at all times of the school day. If a student’s phone is seen during the school day, they will be asked to give their phone to the office for the remainder of the day. If you need to contact your child, please call the school at 604 885 2825. West Sechelt Elementary School is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged property. If you are concerned about loss, theft or damage, please do not send a cell phone with your child.

When students use devices that belong to the school, they must abide by the School District’s Regulation #1170: Appropriate Use of District Technology and Network. All users will respect the privacy of others, will not access other students’ folders, follow copyright laws, respectfully use the device to complete teacher assignments, report behavior that is unsafe, will not damage or tamper with the device, or access inappropriate websites.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Each year we gather information from parents regarding their wishes around media release and posting of student photos on social media. We would like to take this opportunity at the start of the school year to remind all parents that, in the interest of student safety, please do not post photos or videos of children other than your own, on social media sites without prior consent from the parent(s). We thank you in advance for your vigilance in this regard.