

# VEDDER ELEMENTARY CODE OF CONDUCT

## Review and Pledge

### Purpose

As a Learning Community at Vedder Elementary, we provide a nurturing environment for students to achieve high standards and to become respectful, responsible, cooperative 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 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.

### Expectations of Conduct

Expectations apply to behaviour at school, during school organized or sponsored activities, and behaviour beyond these times. Including on-line bullying that negatively impacts the safe, orderly environment of the school and/or student learning.

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, religion, family status, physical or mental ability, or sexual harassment.

### Acceptable Conduct

While going to and from the school and while attending any school function 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
- abide by school rules and guidelines
- work to the best of our abilities

### Unacceptable Conduct

Behaviours and acts that interfere with the learning of others, with an orderly environment or create unsafe conditions are considered unacceptable. This includes threatening behaviours while at school, at a school related activity or other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have a negative impact on the school.

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

Examples:

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

### Consequences

When a student chooses actions detrimental to him/herself or the school community, they will face 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 preventative and restorative, rather than merely punitive. As often as possible, students are encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences using:

- problem solving assignments
- contracts/school public service
- counseling
- 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 chronic behaviour problems.

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)