

Van Horne School
Code of Conduct



(Date Reviewed September 1, 2026)

All student codes of conduct are created in alignment with VSB [AP 350-District Code of Conduct](#).

Statement of Purpose

Van Horne is committed to uphold a safe, inclusive, equitable, welcoming, nurturing, and healthy school environment.

- Promote clear behavioural expectations of respectful and responsible citizenship that lead to a culture of safety, caring and respect amongst everyone in the school and programs and at all school-events and activities
- The School Code of Conduct applies at school, during school-organized or sponsored activities, on school buses, and any behaviour even if outside of school or school hours, (including on-line behaviour), that negatively impacts the safe, caring, or orderly environment of the school, and/or student learning.

Conduct Expectations

- **Acceptable Conduct**
 - Respecting self, others, and the school
 - Contributing to a safe, caring, positive, inclusive, and peaceful environment
 - Seeking to prevent violence and potentially violent situations, and demonstrating social responsibility by reporting such situations
 - Engaging in purposeful learning activities
- **Unacceptable Conduct**

“Students shall not discriminate against others on the basis of Indigenous identity, race, religion, colour, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, family status, age, sex or sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, or physical or mental disability, or for any other reason set out in the Human Rights Code of British Columbia, nor shall a student publish or display anything that would indicate an intention to discriminate against another, or expose them to contempt or ridicule, on the basis of any such grounds.” **Racism and discrimination will not be tolerated in our school.**

- Behaviours that interfere with the learning of other or the smooth running of the school, interfere with an orderly environment, or create an unsafe environment
- Acts of bullying, harassment, intimidation, retaliation (revenge) or physical violence
- Illegal acts, such as possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances
- Theft or damage to property
- Hurtful words or backtalk or excluding others
- Rude body language or tone of voice
- Vandalism, cheating, or stealing
- Pushing, hitting, kicking and dangerous play
- Destruction or damage to property
- Inappropriate internet use
- Possession or use of illegal or restricted substances, real or fake weapons and other items of concern (eg. Lighters, firecrackers)
- **Please** do not send expensive items (or large sums of money) to school without prior approval from school staff. The school will not take responsibility for these items being lost, stolen, or damaged.

Note: Behaviours (both acceptable and unacceptable) cited in the code of conduct are examples only and not an all-inclusive list.

- **Rising Expectations**

Students are expected to learn and mature as they move through successive grades, and as such the expectations progress towards increasing personal responsibility and self-discipline, as well as increasing consequences for inappropriate conduct/unacceptable behavior.

- **Retaliation Prevention**

All reasonable steps will be taken to prevent retaliation against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of a code of conduct.

Consequences

- Disciplinary action, wherever possible, is restorative rather than merely punitive. The school will treat seriously any behaviour that discriminates based on Indigenous identity, race, religion, colour, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, family status, age, sex or sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, or physical or mental disability.
- Repetitive or severe unacceptable behaviour may result in increased severity of subsequent disciplinary action. The age and maturity of students are considered when determining appropriate consequences.
- Special considerations may apply to students with special/diverse needs if these students are unable to comply with a code of conduct due to having a disability/challenge of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional, or behavioural nature.
- Responses to unacceptable conduct are consistent and fair.
- Students, as often as possible, are encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences for violations of the established code of conduct.

- **Notifications**

The principal or designate has a responsibility to inform other parties of serious breaches of the code of conduct. These parties include:

- Parent(s) of student offender(s) and parent(s) of student victim(s) – in every instance
- School district officials
- Police and/or other agencies, as required by law
- School community, when deemed necessary, to reassure members that school officials are taking appropriate action

- **Suspensions**

In accordance with the School Act, Sec. 85 (2) (ii) and (d), the Board authorizes the principal or designate of any school in the district to suspend a student from attendance at school for up to five days.

Suspensions may be for the following reasons:

- a) because a student is willfully and repeatedly disrespectful to a teacher or to any other employee of the Board carrying out responsibilities approved by the Board;
- b) because the behaviour of the student breaches the District Code of Conduct or other policy and/or has a harmful effect on others or the learning environment of the school;
- c) because the student has failed to comply with the School Code of Conduct.

Suspensions over five days are made in consultation with the appropriate Director of Instruction as per [District Student Code of Conduct, AP 350](#). As per AP 350 7.7 an educational program must be provided.

As outlined in the District Code of Conduct, effective July 1, 2024,

Personal Digital Device Usage

To foster a safe and focused learning environment for students, the use of personal digital devices, that distract from learning, such as cell phones, tablets and electronic devices, are restricted during school hours and on school property. Educators and school staff will continue to model digital citizenship in the classroom and avoid the use of personal digital devices for non-instructional purposes.

Personal digital devices are restricted for the instructional day. This includes class time, recess and lunch during school hours of 9:00am to 3:00pm. Personal digital devices must be turned off or placed on silent mode and out of sight for the entire school day.

The use of personal devices is permitted under the following circumstances:

For educational purposes, as directed by the educator in the classroom.

For health and medical purposes as outlined in an Individual Education Plan or Student Safety Plan.

To support special or diverse educational needs, such as assistive technology related to Individual Education Plans or Student Support Plans.

The expectation is that students will follow the direction of the educators. Students who repeatedly do not follow the personal digital device policy may be asked to store their personal digital devices with an administrator for the remainder of the day.

The Vancouver School Board is not responsible for the loss, damage, or disappearance of personal digital devices that students decide to bring to school.

A regular review of the school's Code of Conduct guidelines for personal digital devices are essential to ensure their effectiveness and relevance in addressing current issues and meeting the evolving needs of students, teachers, and parents. Adjustments to the Code of Conduct may be necessary to ensure that school guidelines remain relevant and effective in promoting a conducive learning environment. Changes may be prompted by emerging incidents that highlight the need for enhanced measures to protect student well-being and privacy.

School Motto:

At Van Horne We Value

Kindness, Responsible Behaviour, Hard Work and Effort, Caring and Empathy, Fairness

1. Kindness – Be friendly, generous, and considerate to other people
2. Responsible behaviour - Follow through on your obligations and do what you are supposed to do
3. Hard work and effort – Make a determined attempt towards making progress and completing whatever your goals and objectives are
4. Caring and empathy – Show kindness and concern for yourself, others and the environment and seek to understand the feelings of other people
5. Fairness – Show just treatment of all things while recognizing that fairness means equity, not equal.

SIR WILLIAM VAN HORNE ELEMENTARY'S
CODE OF CONDUCT:



On the Playground

- Include others in playing
- Help others if they get hurt by telling an adult
- Throw garbage in the garbage bin and put recyclables in the recycling bin

In the Washroom

- Use only enough paper towels to dry your hands. Do not be wasteful
- Dispose paper towels in the waste container, not the toilet
- Inform the custodian if supplies are low

In the Hallways and the Inside of the School

- Use quiet inside voices
- Keep your hands and feet to yourself
- Stay to the right when passing others

In the Gym

- Winning is not the most important thing, playing to have fun is
- Be aware of safe actions

In the Classroom, Library, and Computer Lab

- Listen and follow instructions
- Work diligently in completing objectives and help others to do their best work as well
- Take care of school supplies/library books so others can use them as well
- Complete schoolwork as assigned
- Demonstrate the grit that is required in the pursuit of learning

In an Assembly or on a field trip

- Focus on the speaker
- Clap and cheer at the appropriate time
- Show the speaker courtesy by using good listening skills
- Listen and follow adult instructions

At Lunchtime

- Sit and eat appropriately
- Show others courtesy by allowing them to eat in a proper environment
- Put recyclables in the recycling container, compostables in composting, and garbage in the garbage bin