



## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Date Reviewed: June 19, 2024

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

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

- Our Code of Conduct has been written to ensure that our school is a safe, inclusive, equitable, welcoming, nurturing, and healthy school environment for all. We expect our Nootka community (staff, students, parents) to demonstrate responsible behaviour, good citizenship, kindness, empathy and respect for others. We want to ensure that at Nootka we promote the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code, fostering an environment for learning that is free of discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, gender or sexual orientation. Our Code of Conduct promotes 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 and applies to our entire Nootka community - all staff, parents, guardians and students.

### **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

### **WE CARE ABOUT OURSELVES**

We ...

- come to school on time, ready to work.
- seek to demonstrate a positive attitude.
- eat healthy foods, exercise regularly and get plenty of sleep at night.
- dress appropriately and avoid negative message clothing.
- stay home when we are sick.
- take care of our belongings and leave valuable items at home.
- keep any electronic devices that we bring in our backpacks unless they are to be used at the direction of staff.
- follow directions given by any member of the school's staff.

- stay on the school grounds during breaks unless going home for lunch.

### WE CARE ABOUT EACH OTHER

We ...

- treat others how we want to be treated.
- listen, share, take turns and cooperate.
- use words to solve problems peacefully.
- keep our hands and feet to ourselves.
- are friendly, polite and inclusive.
- play safely, fairly and honestly at all times.
- help to break down the invisible walls that can sometimes divide us.
- avoid wearing strong scents and bringing food with nuts to school.
- get permission before taking someone's picture or posting any photos online.
- think before we post anything online, remembering that everything on the Internet is permanent and public.

### WE CARE ABOUT OUR SCHOOL AND WORLD

We ...

- clean up after ourselves and help to keep our building and school grounds clean.
- use class and library materials with care — and return them when they're due.
- reduce, reuse and recycle.
- respect any artwork that is on display.
- use inside voices within the building.
- demonstrate good audience behaviour.
- use washrooms only for their intended purpose. We flush, wash our hands and leave as soon as we're done.
- keep the hallways clear so that everyone can move about easily, especially those with mobility challenges.
- save gum for home because it tends to make a mess at school.

### UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR

“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.**

Other behaviour that will also not be tolerated include:

- Bullying or discrimination based on differences such as gender, religious beliefs, abilities, appearance or sexual orientation.
- Words and actions that harm, embarrass or encourage the exclusion of others.
- Teasing, swearing and put downs.
- Violence, threats, aggression and the bringing of any kind of weapon to school.
- Unsafe play or conduct
- Vandalism, graffiti or littering
- Behaviours that interfere with the learning of other, interfere with an orderly environment, or create an unsafe environment

- Acts of bullying, harassment, intimidation, or physical violence
- Illegal acts, such as possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances
- Theft or damage to property

The behaviours cited are examples 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.

#### **HOW PARENTS CAN HELP**

- Review this document from time to time and discuss it with your child. Lead by example.
- Develop a respectful relationship with the teachers, support staff and other families.
- Model peaceful problem solving.
- Monitor your child's use of technology, including their amount of screen time, and use of messaging tools or social media.

#### **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 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 the District Student Code of Conduct. As per AP 350 6.7.1, an educational program must be provided during suspensions.

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.*

### **Parent Involvement: How Parents can support our Code of Conduct**

- Talk to your child about the Code of Conduct
- Help your child talk about problems or issues
- Encourage your child to take responsibility for his or her belongings, work, and actions
- Help your child to resolve issues with others peacefully and respectfully
- Support your child with his or her schoolwork and activities

LAST UPDATED: 25 NOVEMBER 2020