

# Quilchena Elementary Code of Conduct

(June 2023)

## Wisdom, Ownership, Leadership, Versatility, Empathy, Safety

As wolves, we strive to demonstrate **Wisdom, Ownership, Leadership, Versatility, Empathy** and **Safety** each and every day. Our Code of Conduct is the guiding principle behind how all students, staff, caregivers and visitors will act. It provides us with guidance and language to promote positive behaviour and to address conduct that is unacceptable.

Our school is committed to upholding a safe, inclusive, equitable, welcoming, nurturing and healthy school environment. The school 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 online behaviour), that negatively impacts the safe, caring, or orderly environment of the school, and/or student learning.

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 behaviour.

Quilchena Elementary School also promotes and adheres to the values of inclusion expressed in the BC Human Rights Code. Racism will not be tolerated in our school.

When students demonstrate behaviour that is not in keeping with the ideas described above, a response that is based on learning and restoration (making amends) is implemented.

### ***CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS – Acceptable Behaviour***

Quilchena WOLVES strive to demonstrate:

#### **Wisdom**

- Students make thoughtful decisions that ensure their own social/emotional/intellectual well-being, as well as that of other members of our school community. They will take care of themselves, others, and our community.

#### **Ownership**

- Students take responsibility for their accomplishments and show pride in them
- Students acknowledge their mistakes and make restorative actions when necessary

#### **Leadership**

- Students act in a way that promotes our school values to those around them, regardless of age. Older students recognize their behaviours are an example to younger students and strive to be positive role models

**Versatility**

• Students approach school with a growth mindset. Students can succeed in multiple areas by approaching tasks with a “can do” attitude.

**Empathy**

• Students will be friendly and inclusive to all members of our school community. They will be ready and willing to help others and be a friend to those who need it.

**Safety**

• Students conduct themselves in a way that ensures their safety and the safety of those around them. They will be mindful of their actions, interact with peers respectfully and report unsafe behaviours to school staff.

***CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS – Unacceptable Behaviour******CONSEQUENCES FOR BEHAVIOUR: MAKE AMENDS PLAN***

Whenever possible, our focus will be a restorative action plan, rather than a punitive one. 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, or for any other reason set out in the Human Rights Code of British Columbia

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.

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

**Make Amends Plan – Level 1: When a Child Breaks the Code of Conduct**

Some examples include (but are not limited to):

- Interfering with the learning of others
- Creating unsafe conditions (running in halls, roughhousing)
- Disrespecting others (name calling, inappropriate language, teasing)
- Not respecting property

Most of these choices are minor and can be solved with the teacher and student(s), and sometimes may involve a small group or class meeting. A decision will be made with the student and the teacher about appropriate restorative action (apology, act that gives back to the individual/school).

### **Make Amends Plan – Level 2: When a Child *Repeatedly* Breaks the Code of Conduct**

A discussion takes place with the student, teacher and principal. A collaborative decision will be made about appropriate restorative action and the student completes a “Make Amends Plan” (of which a copy is sent home). The teacher or principal may also request a meeting with the parents (or vice-versa).

### **Make Amends Plan – Level 3: When a Child Breaks the Code of Conduct in a Serious Way**

Some examples include (but are not limited to):

- Bullying, harassment, discrimination, intimidation, or threats
- Ignoring others who bully, harass, intimidate, or threaten
- Theft
- Non-compliance; willful disrespect
- Very unsafe behaviour (leaving school grounds/class)
- Vandalism (willful destruction of property)
- Using physical violence
- Accessing inappropriate sites on the Internet

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.

The teacher(s), parent(s), student, and principal confer and devise the next level of intervention for the student to succeed in school. A decision will be made about the appropriate restorative action and the student completes a restorative plan.

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

### ***SERIOUS BREACHES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT***

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. Choices that are made (such as weapon offences, violent behaviour causing injury to another person, lighting fires, stealing, or a major disruption in a classroom or school event) may result in an in-school or out-of-school suspension for up to five days. 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

Please note that if there is a violation of a very serious nature, suspension will be immediate. In such circumstances, a letter will be placed in the child's file. A conference with the student, parents, teacher and principal is required before the student can return to school. It may be necessary to contact others outside of the school such as district staff, police, MCFD or other community agencies.

### ***FAMILY INVOLVEMENT***

Quilchena's Code of Conduct was established to ensure the safety of each child and staff member. We ask for student and parental support in honouring our commitment to ensuring the safest learning environment for all.

Parents can help in the following ways:

- a) Discuss the Code of Conduct with your child.
- b) Be in close contact with your child's teacher. Find ways to use the WOLVES Code of Conduct in your home and in the community.