

Renfrew School
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.

- **Renfrew Cares for Self**
- **Renfrew Cares for Others**
- **Renfrew Cares for the Surroundings**

Statement of Purpose

Renfrew 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 others, 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

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.

- 1) For behaviours that are minor a staff person will:
 - Speak directly to the student
 - Ask them to identify the inappropriate behaviour/unwise decision or choice
 - Think about what would have been a better decision and behaviour.
 - A restorative consequence may be applied to encourage positive behaviour and mend relationships.

- 2) For behaviours that are more serious or are a repeat of minor violations, a longer time out, community service, or a written apology may be needed.

- 3) For very serious behaviours, logical consequences will be used that might include a meeting with the principal, parents, or an in-school suspension (child does their work in the office for a specified length of time).

- 4) When a student has been willfully disobedient or disrespectful to any staff member, has caused others to feel unsafe (bullying, fighting, racism, sexual orientation/gender identity), or vandalizes the school, student or staff property, the principal has the authority, according to the School Act, to suspend the student. While we will continue to use a restorative consequence to encourage positive behaviour and mend relationships, a suspension may be necessary.

- **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:

Renfrew Cares for Self

Examples of Acceptable Behaviour

- I come to school ready to learn
- I do my homework

- I am on time for school
- I go to my class when the bell rings
- I listen and try my best
- I stay on the school grounds and I play safely
- I walk safely in the halls and stairwells, keeping on the right-hand side
- I use the washrooms quickly and quietly and I keep them clean
- I exercise and eat healthy foods
- I wash my hands
- I tell an adult when I feel unsafe

Examples of Unacceptable Behaviour

- bringing weapons or dangerous items to school
- stealing, lying, cheating, or swearing
- talking about inappropriate topics
- making inappropriate gestures
- racist remarks

Renfrew Cares for Others

Examples of Acceptable Behaviour

- I speak politely and listen carefully
- I share with and help others
- I tell the truth
- I use words to solve problems
- I am a good team player
- I include others
- I treat others with respect at all times
- I tell an adult when I know someone else may be unsafe or feels unsafe

Examples of Unacceptable Behaviour

- bullying, harassing, intimidating, excluding, or threatening others in person, writing or through the Internet
- acting physically aggressive
- making offensive/rude remarks such as put-downs or name-calling
- encouraging or pressuring others to break school rules
- spreading gossip or rumours
- discriminating against someone based on race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation
- racist language in person, writing or through social media/internet

Renfrew Cares for the Surroundings

Examples of Acceptable Behaviour

- I respect other people's belongings
- I take care of school supplies and school equipment
- I recycle paper, cans, bottles, and juice boxes
- I keep the school clean and put garbage in the garbage cans
- I tell an adult when I know my surroundings may be unsafe

Examples of Unacceptable Behaviour

- willfully damaging property or disrespecting the environment
- littering