

# Code of Conduct

- C *Caring*
- O *Acceptance*
- O *Respect*
- K *Excellence*  
*Self-control*



The purpose of Cook's Code of Conduct is to provide a safe, respectful learning environment and school community that will enable students to become responsible global citizens who recognize the uniqueness of self and others. Cook School promotes the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law - prohibiting discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation - in respect of discriminatory publication and discrimination in accommodation, service and facility in the school environment.

**Students at Captain Cook Elementary School must behave according to a Code of Conduct which recognizes the rights of:**

- all students to learn
- school staff members to perform their duties
- staff and students work and learn in a safe environment
- staff, students, and parents to be treated respectfully.

## **ACCEPTABLE CONDUCT**

Acceptable conduct is encapsulated in the acronym **CARES** and the words on our school emblem: **RESOLUTION, ENDEAVOUR AND DISCOVERY**

"**C**" stands for caring about self, others, the school community and our communal properties.

"**A**" stands for acceptance of others, including tolerating differences and practicing inclusive behaviors such as friendliness.

"**R**" stands for respect for other cultures and individuals by being courteous and seeking understanding of others' ideas and feelings.

"**E**" stands for excellence in trying to do our best towards attaining excellent results in academic work, artistic pursuits and athletics.

"S" stands for self-control, which means we take responsibility for our actions and learn about ways to avoid aggression.

**Resolution** means being firm in our purpose, having a collective focus on learning and continual advancement and improvement. It also means learning fair-mindedness, civility, empathy, and courage to be autonomous thinkers.

**Endeavour** means using our best efforts to gather information, master subject matter, to think clearly and accurately and to use historical, literary and socially responsible thinking to make judgments.

**Discovery** means using the spirit of scientific exploration (as personified by Captain James Cook) to be precise, to use mathematical logic to make inferences and construct interpretations, including recognition of different points of view, and when necessary shifting concepts or opinions.

### RISING EXPECTATIONS

Reports of aggression, threats, humiliation, harassment or exclusion are handled by administrators in a firm, consistent approach.

All reports are handled promptly, focusing on rights of all students using a restorative justice approach, asking aggressors to make amends to victims. We also employ incrementally increasing consequences for recurring violations, up to and including suspension from school.

Many of us have been bullies or victims at some time. Children who sometimes act as bullies need to understand the effects of their actions on others and to understand the difference between leadership and dominance. Victims need to understand that aggressive responses escalate problems and passive responses encourage future bullying. An appropriate assertive and respectful response to bullying is **"Please Stop!"**

We teach children, at the appropriate age and time that hatred or belligerence toward ethnic groups or homosexuals are deplorable in Canadian society and contravene Vancouver School Board policy. Aggression in the form of racist or sexist slurs is intolerable.

Sometimes aggressors need reminders from helpful adults. We teach children that "reporting" to adults helps victims to get out of trouble. Failure to report leaves victims isolated and helpless. **Many children act as "bystanders", failing to help those in need. It takes real courage to overcome fear and speak up. Summoning this courage is the trait of true champions of the virtues we value.**

## PEER CONFLICT, MEAN BEHAVIOR AND BULLYING

### What kind of problem is this?

Students at Cook are encouraged to talk about problems in order to solve them. School staff will help you to deal with the problem according to the type of behavior demonstrated. The problem solving process is important to allow students to learn about how to solve problems and accept responsibility for the choices they make.

#### **Is this Peer Conflict?**

Conflict between students is a natural part of growing up. You will have times when you disagree and can't solve problems on your own. Sometimes students become so frustrated that they say mean things or act out physically by hitting, kicking or trying to hurt.

**If it's peer conflict, you will notice that you:**

- usually choose to play or hang out together;
- have equal power (similar age, size, social status, etc.);
- are equally upset;
- are both interested in the outcome; and
- will be able to work things out with adult help (after calming down).

#### **Is this Mean Behavior?**

Sometimes students may try out behaviors to assert themselves - sometimes saying or doing mean things - such as making fun of others, using a hurtful name, taking something without permission, leaving a child out, or "budging" in line.

**If it is mean behavior, usually:**

- it is not planned and seems to happen spontaneously or by chance;
- it may be aimed at any child nearby;
- the child being mean may feel badly when an adult points out the harm they've caused.

#### **Is this Bullying Behavior?**

Bullying is serious behavior and requires the help of an adult to deal with it. It has three key features - all three must be present for the situation to be considered bullying:

- Power imbalance -- One child clearly has power over the other(s), which may be due to age, size, social status, and so on.
- Intention to harm -- The purpose of the bullying behavior is to harm or hurt other(s) - it's intended to be mean and is clearly not accidental.
- Repeated over time -- bullying behavior continues over time, and gets worse with repetition. There is a real or implied threat that the behavior will not stop, and in fact will become even more serious

Parents are encouraged to make sure they do not model or condone the aggressive use of power in relationships and to understand the moral consequences of racism

or sexism. Parents need to help children respect differences and develop caring for others.

## CONSEQUENCES

Consequences for misbehaviour will vary depending upon the degree of seriousness, the age of the student, and the circumstances surrounding a particular incident and previous history. If a student is referred more than once in a short space of time, parents will be contacted. Parents will always be contacted in cases where the misbehaviour is deemed serious. In serious cases, it may be necessary to notify others such as school district officials, police, MCFD or other agencies.

Where applicable, "natural" consequences will be applied. e.g. students who litter may be required to clean up; students who damage or take property may have to make restitution etc.

Special considerations may apply to students with special needs, if they are unable to comply with a Code of Conduct due to having a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature.

**At Cook Elementary we will treat seriously, any behaviour or communication that discriminates based on race, color, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation (prohibited grounds set out in the the BC Human Rights Code)**

Other possible consequences are:

### **Detention after School**

Occasionally intermediate students (Gr. 4 to 7) may be required to serve a 30 minute detention after school. Students are allowed to phone home to inform their parents if they will be serving a detention.

### **Parents Contacted**

In the case of more serious incidents or persistent misbehaviours, parents will be made aware of by phone call or a note home.

### **Loss of Privileges**

Students may have privileges removed as a consequence for poor behaviour. For example, play time outside may be denied or if a student does not demonstrate the ability to make safe choices, he or she may be excluded from a field trip.

### **Suspension from School**

#### **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 District Policy (<http://www.vsb.bc.ca/district-policy/jgd-r-district-student-code-conduct-regulation>)

### **The following are examples of Unacceptable Behaviours:**

The following misbehaviours are considered serious and will result in parents being contacted and appropriate consequences (including suspension) being assigned.

- Physically assaulting others.
- Tampering with or falsely activating a fire alarm, being in possessions of matches or lighters, or lighting or being an accessory to lighting fires at school.
- Disruption of the learning environment.
- Bullying, using threats, extortion, intimidation, or harassment. This includes these activities being conducted using the internet.
- Using language which offends by race, ethnicity, and/or gender.
- Bringing to school, being in possession of, or being under the influence of substances banned at school. (e.g. alcohol, cigarettes, drugs etc.)
- Interfering with or willfully damaging school property or the property of others.
- Being in possession of/ bringing to school inherently dangerous or noxious articles. This includes, but is not limited to, knives, stink bombs, lighters and matches, replica weapons, and martial arts weapons.
- Being in possession of/bringing to school articles or materials which are inappropriate or offensive. *e.g. materials (including clothing) which depicts violence or sex or racism.*
- Leaving the school grounds without permission.
- Behaving in a way which is unsafe to themselves or others.
- Throwing rocks or sticks. (Snowballing is not permitted at school.)

### **Less serious behaviours**

Less serious behaviours are generally dealt with by assigning lesser consequences. It is an expectation that students will:

- Be respectful to parents or staff members.
- Not bring to school large sums of money; (It is recommended that students not bring expensive electronic items or card collections to school.)
- Not use skateboards, rollerblades, or scooters on the school grounds or ride bikes on the school grounds. (Safety)
- remove hats in the school; use appropriate language at all times

- Keep out of areas of the building or grounds which are off limits to students.
- Conduct themselves appropriately on the way to and on the way home from school

### **Internet Access for Students at Captain Cook School**

- Internet access is available to students at **Captain Cook School** through the VSB District network
- Students are able to use Webcat on the VSB site to read books, do research and find library resources
- Online tutoring and presentations are available through the BC Ministry of Education LearnNowBC
- Students will also be going online to work on projects, play educational games and communicate via blogs, email, wikis and view the school website.

### **Rules of Netiquette**

- The rules online are the same as the rules of face to face communication.
- Students are responsible for following the **Cook Code of Conduct**
- Demonstrating respectful language and treatment of all peers is an expectation.
- What you post online is a digital tattoo that stays with you FOREVER. You are responsible for all of your online behaviour.

### **Internet Awareness**

- **Only** share email address, usernames and passwords to online accounts with parents or guardians.
- **Do not reveal personal information** such as first and last name, birthdate, address, usernames or passwords to anyone online, unless directed by adult to visit a protected site (ie. LearnNowBC).
- **Never** make plans to meet a stranger over the internet.
- Do not have your picture taken for the website or the school twitter feed unless your parent/ guardian has given consent on the Media Release form and you've handed it in.

**This Code of Conduct applies while at school, at a school related activity, while on-line or in other circumstances**

**where engaging in the activity will have impact on the school environment.**

**We ask that you sit and review our Code of Conduct with your child(ren) and facilitate a discussion about the various aspects of expected student behavior at school.**