

MOBERLY LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CODE OF CONDUCT 2009/2010

Statement of Purpose

As the school is a community, it is necessary that members follow a code of behaviour that allows that community to function effectively. Any behaviour that disturbs the academic and/or social learning environment at the school will be considered inappropriate. The BC Human Rights Code prohibits discrimination in the basis of an individual's or group's race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, or sexual orientation. Further, one of its goals is to "promote a climate of understanding and mutual respect where all are equal in dignity and rights." Considering this, the staff at Moberly Lake School is dedicated to helping students become responsible and respectful citizens who solve conflicts in peaceful and appropriate ways.

Our goals are:

- To establish and maintain a safe, nurturing and orderly environment for purposeful learning
- To look at the "whole" student understanding the significance of *Belonging, Independence, Mastery and Generosity*
- To establish and maintain appropriate balances among individuals and collective rights, freedoms and responsibilities
- To clarify and publish expectations for student behaviour while at school, at a school-related activity or in other circumstances.
- To guide students to be: safe, self-secure and confident, aware of the needs of others, considerate and helpful, well-mannered and courteous, focused on academics, making an effort to achieve, persevering, striving to reach their potential, and to be responsible citizens who can go out into the world and be productive.

RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES

Students of the school have rights and responsibilities.

Their rights are:

1. a good education
2. to be treated with respect
3. a clean and safe environment free from discrimination
4. privacy and personal space

Their responsibilities are:

1. to develop and maintain good study habits
2. to respect the rights of others
3. to maintain a clean and safe environment
4. to treat others well, both physically and emotionally

ACCEPTABLE CONDUCT

What follows are examples of how Moberly Lake students can behave in ways that promotes a positive learning environment for themselves and others.

These are examples, only and not an all-inclusive list:

- respect yourself, interact with others in positive, supportive ways
- help to make the school a safe, caring and orderly place
- inform a trusted adult in a timely manner (in advance, if possible) of incidents of bullying, harassment, intimidation or other safety concerns
- engage in learning activities in a purposeful and timely manner, act in a manner that brings credit to yourself and the school

Students will be reminded prior to any field trip or off-site school event that our regular code of conduct applies, and that positive, caring behaviour is expected.

UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT

The following is a list of examples of unacceptable behaviours; it is not all-inclusive:

- behaviours that interfere with the learning of others, interfere with an orderly environment, create unsafe conditions
- acts of bullying, harassment, intimidation; physical violence; retribution against a person who has intervened to prevent or report an incident or other safety concerns
- illegal acts, such as possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances; possession of weapons; theft or damage to property

CHANGING EXPECTATIONS

As students mature, expectations for their behaviour will change. There will be:

- increasing personal responsibility and self-discipline
- increasing consequences for inappropriate conduct/unacceptable behaviour

There may be times when special considerations may apply to students with special needs who are unable to comply with expectations due to having a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Methods of disciplinary action will be varied and best suited to the inappropriate behaviour. When a student is having difficulty behaving in an acceptable way, parents will be notified so that they can encourage the child to make better choices about his or her behaviour. If a student repeatedly behaves inappropriately, the principal, teacher, and parents will jointly work on a plan of action to deal with the situation. Plans may include a school based team meeting taking into consideration the "whole" child. Suspensions by the principal will be for major offences only and will likely be in school suspensions. We will take into account the severity and frequency of the unacceptable conduct as well as the age and maturity of the students are considered in determining appropriate disciplinary action. In all cases:

- responses to unacceptable behaviour will be consistent and fair
- disciplinary action, wherever possible, is preventative and restorative, rather than punitive
- students, as often as possible, are encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences for violations of established code of conduct

Disciplinary decisions may be appealed to the principal subsequently to the School District. However, by working together to ensure that students are successful at school, parents and staff can help students make positive choices about their actions and solve conflicts in suitable ways.

MAJOR OFFENSES

Major offenses include such things as:

- leaving the school grounds without permission
- possession of a weapon
- abusive or foul language
- gross disrespect to staff or other students
- fighting, dangerous behaviours
- use of alcohol or illegal drugs

- bullying; harassment by continuously troubling, tormenting, gesturing, or speaking inappropriately toward another individual in a manner that causes discomfort to the individual
- violent behaviour directed toward another individual(s) or property

Students engaged in any of the above major offenses may be suspended. Parents will be advised that in all cases where a student receives a suspension for the use or possession of a controlled substance, the RCMP Liaison Officer will be informed. In addition, where a student is suspended for possession of a weapon or for violence, the RCMP will receive notice. In cases of a serious situation or incident all parents will be notified to reassure members of the school community that school officials are aware of the situation and are taking appropriate action to address it.