

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

TUMBLER RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Statement of Purpose

As the school is a community, it is necessary that all members follow a code of behaviour that allows that community to function effectively. Any behaviour that disturbs the academic and social learning environment at the school will be considered inappropriate. The *BC Human Rights Code* prohibits discrimination on the basis of an individual's or a 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 Tumbler Ridge Elementary School is dedicated to helping students become responsible and respectful citizens who solve conflicts in appropriate ways.

Our goals are:

- ✓ to establish and maintain safe, caring and orderly environments for purposeful learning activity
- ✓ to establish and maintain appropriate balances among individual 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 engage in activities that will have a positive impact on the school environment

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 Tumbler Ridge students can behave in ways that promote 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 'tellable' 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 behaviour; it is not all-inclusive:

- behaviour 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 concern
- 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 contracts or timeouts. Suspensions by the principal will be for major offences. We will take into account the severity and frequency of unacceptable conduct as well as the age and maturity of students are considered in determining appropriate disciplinary action. In all cases:

- responses to unacceptable conduct 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 the established code of conduct

Disciplinary decisions may be appealed to the principal and 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 offences may include such things as:

- use of alcohol or illegal drugs
- possession of a weapon
- abusive or foul language
- gross disrespect to staff or other students
- physical violence or dangerous behaviour
- bullying: behaviour which is recurring attempts to threaten, frighten, tyrannize, acts of implied or real aggression, verbal and/or non-verbal aggression and/or social alienation where one individual attempts to exert power or control over another
- harassment: behaviour which is to continuously trouble, torment, gesture, or speak 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 offences will be suspended. Parents will be advised that in all cases where a student receives a suspension for use or possession of a controlled substance, the RCMP 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 may 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.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Please read, understand and explain these points to your child.

1. Many students tend to get into unsafe playing situations when they have to wait outside for long periods of time. Supervision does not begin until 8:35 in the morning. Please do not have students arrive before this time.
2. If your child rides a bike or scooter to school, please ensure that your child walks his/her bike or scooter onto school property. Bikes and scooters are to be placed in the bike racks provided. There are to be no skateboards or roller blades at any time, at the school.
3. When students are not properly dressed for the weather, they tend to create discipline problems because they do not want to be outside. Please ensure that students wear clothing appropriate for outdoor play, as students will be outside on most days.

4. Often when toys are brought to school, they are the source of jealousy, conflict and tears. Unless the child is bringing an item for presentation during sharing time, it is prohibited to have such items at school.
5. Notify the school when your child is going to be absent or late – 242-5281
6. The appearance of any young person is primarily the responsibility of the child and his/her parents. This appearance should not be distracting or offensive to teachers or other students. Nor should it be detrimental to the educational atmosphere of the school. When a student's appearance is felt to be negatively distracting, he or she will be asked to get changed or cover up. A parent meeting with administration may be requested.

At Tumbler Ridge Elementary School, staff, in conjunction with parents, has agreed that the school will maintain the following dress code.

Students are not to wear attire:

- advertising drugs or alcohol
- that have spaghetti, short shorts or mid-drift revealing clothing or revealing underwear where tops do not meet bottoms
- expressing vulgar language, racist or sexist comments
- sleepwear (pajama bottoms), unless it is part of spirit week.
- displaying any suggestive sexual messages
- covering their heads unless it is for religious reasons sanctioned by their parents.

OUR SCHOOL RULES

- 1. Be kind and use good manners.**
- 2. Be smart, play safe (This includes things such as no rough housing, keeping hands and feet to oneself).**
- 3. Walk away from trouble!**
- 4. Be where you're supposed to be when you're supposed to be there. (This includes students eating lunch at their desks, going outside at recess and lunch breaks).**
- 5. Walk inside the school**
- 6. Inside shoes, inside. (Students are required to have a pair of indoor shoes that are to be worn inside the school).**
- 7. Take care of YOUR school! (Place all garbage in the garbage cans, taking care of school property such as desks, school ground equipment, etc. it's your school, BE PROUD!).**

To the Parents of Tumbler Ridge Elementary Students

Please sign below and send this last page back to the school.

I am aware of Tumbler Ridge Elementary School's
Student Code of Conduct.

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Your Child/Children's Name
