



LITTLE PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT 2023-2024

1. 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. These expectations apply to behaviour at school, during school-organized or sponsored activities, and behaviour beyond these times (including on-line behaviour) that negatively impacts the safe, caring, orderly environment of the school and or student learning. The staff at Little Prairie Elementary School is dedicated to helping students become responsible and respectful citizens who solve conflicts in appropriate ways. Considering this, methods of determining consequences will be varied and best suited to the inappropriate behaviour. Little Prairie school promotes the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code respecting the rights of individualism 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. In accordance with the “prohibited grounds of discrimination set out in the *BC Human Rights Code* (RSBC 1996, c. 210),”

Students will not discriminate against others on the basis of race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, ***gender identity or expression***, and age, or for any other reason set out in the Human Rights Code of British Columbia.

Neither will a student make gestures, publish, or display anything that would indicate an intention to discriminate against an individual or group, or expose them to contempt or ridicule on the basis of race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status,

physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, **gender identity or expression**, and age, or for any other reason set out in the Human Rights Code of British Columbia.

Students in the school have rights.

Their rights are:

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

2. CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

a. Acceptable Conduct

Students at Little Prairie are expected to conduct themselves in the following manner:

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

b. Unacceptable Conduct

Unacceptable conduct may include, but are not limited to, such behaviours as:

1. those which interfere with the learning of others
2. those which interfere with an orderly environment
3. those that create unsafe conditions (ex. leaving the school grounds without permission; play fighting)
4. those which are disrespectful to staff or other students
5. acts of bullying, harassment or intimidation
6. acts of physical violence
7. acts of retribution against a person who has reported unacceptable conduct
8. possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances
9. possession or use of weapons
10. theft or damage to property
11. participation or engagement in cyber-bullying of any form, for example: face-book, text messaging, instant messaging etc.

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.

- Students have varying levels of understanding as they grow older and more mature. Some students with certain types of special needs are unable to understand conduct expectations or rationally control their conduct. Support that assists such students to master the behavioural expectations should be part of their Individual Education Plan goals and consequences should take into account the needs of students.

Consequences may include, but are not limited to:

When a student is having difficulty behaving in an acceptable way, the following procedure will take place:

- Parents will be notified so that they can encourage their child to make better choices about his or her behaviour.

- As often as possible, students should be encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences for violations of the code of conduct.
- Whenever appropriate consequences will be **restorative in nature**, allowing all parties involved the opportunity to benefit from them.
- If a student repeatedly behaves inappropriately, the principal, teacher, and parents will jointly work on a plan of action that will result in an improvement in the student's behaviour.
- Plans may include contracts, timeouts or individualized consequences directly connected to offence.
- Suspensions by the principal will be for major offences.
- Disciplinary decisions may be appealed to the principal and subsequently to the School District.

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.

3. RISING EXPECTATIONS

It is hoped that with maturity, students will increase personal responsibility and self-discipline as they progress through the grades. This should result in improved problem solving and decision-making skills.

HARASSMENT/BULLYING/CONFLICT

It is essential that the proper language is used for the proper behavior. Too often bullying is used to describe normal student conflict. Student conflict is expected among students. Staff will work with students to find fair resolutions and consequences when conflict arises.

DEFINITION

- **Harassment:** Any unwelcome or unwanted act or comment that is hurtful, degrading, humiliating, or offensive to another person is an act of harassment. Of particular concern is such behaviour that persists after the aggressor has been asked to stop.

- **Bullying:** A pattern of **repeated aggressive behaviour**, with negative intent, directed from one person to another **where there is a power imbalance**. This includes recurring attempts to threaten, frighten, tyrannize, acts of implied or real aggression, verbal and/or non-verbal aggression, and/or social alienation where a student attempts to exert power or control over another. There are four main types of bullying. These include Physical, verbal, social and emotional and Cyber.

- **Conflict:** generally, a disagreement or difference of opinion between peers who typically have equal power in their relationship. It is usually an inevitable part of a group dynamic. Both harassment and bullying are regarded as very serious offences.

LITTLE PRAIRIE'S POLICY TOWARDS HARASSMENT/BULLYING

Little Prairie School has a no-tolerance policy towards harassment and bullying. It is important that all staff members who are aware of a harassment/bullying situation take ownership and

respond in a timely manner. All staff will document incidents of either of the above in a “Behaviour” book kept in the office.

REPORTING INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT/BULLYING

It is important that students feel safe from retaliation in reporting incidents of harassment/bullying. Therefore, students and parents may report incidents with confidentiality. Students may report incidents of harassment/bullying to any staff member. Parents are actively encouraged to report incidents of harassment/bullying to the principal and District Area Counselor. All incidents of harassment/bullying will be dealt with in a timely, respectful manner.

Reasonable steps to prevent retaliation against a student who has reported a breach of the Code of Conduct will be taken. These may include, but are not limited to participation in Restorative Circles and Practices with follow-through based and/ or possible suspension. Parents and guardians will be notified in these instances.

REMEDATION FOR THOSE WHO HARASS OR BULLY OTHERS/SUPPORT FOR THE VICTIM

Students who engage in harassment or bullying are students with serious social problems who need help. Remediation of such students will involve the following:

- Discussion of harassment/bullying incidents at School-Based Team meetings. Plans for remediation of the offender and ways of providing support to the victim will be created.
- Counseling for the victim and the offender
- Individual Behaviour Plan for the offender
- Mentoring of the offender
- Making restitution to the victim
- Follow-up with the offender, victim, and the parents of both

CURRENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN PLACE

- **ERASE Bullying (erasebullying.ca)** – this is an anonymous reporting tool that can be accessed on the School website or **erasebullying.ca** by students and parents. All comments are submitted are investigated by head office and applicable school.
- Restorative Practices/ Circles
- Focus on Anti-Bullying behaviors
- Cyber-bullying information available to students and their parents
- Projects on harassment/bullying
- Talks to classes by the R.C.M.P. liaison officer
- Talks to classes by the District Area Counselor
- Class meetings
- Discussions of harassment/bullying at weekly school assemblies
- Presentations on harassment/bullying by students at assemblies
- Creating community and connections between older and younger students
- Peace Keepers
- Caring Communities Learning
- Inclusion Group – Student Leaders that are working together to ensure our school is a safe place for all students, parents and teachers.

