



## **Student Code of Conduct**

*Updated September 2024*

### **a) Statement of Purpose**

Westview Elementary School is a learning community where the rights of all individuals are expected and maintained. We accept the responsibility of instilling specific behavioral expectations so all may have an equal opportunity to learn and grow in a caring and respectful environment. Our philosophy is to provide a caring environment at Westview Elementary School, in which students will develop respect for themselves, others and their place.

### **b) Conduct Expectations**

At Westview Elementary School, our statement of **acceptable conduct** is written in terms of student rights and responsibilities:

*I have the right to:*

- learn and be respected by others in a caring and risk-free environment.

*I have the responsibility to:*

- show respect to others and myself;
- respect the belongings of others;
- be helpful and caring to others; and
- resolve conflicts in a constructive manner.

*I have the right to:*

- communicate openly and honestly with others.

*I have the responsibility to:*

- speak at an appropriate time with respect and honesty;
- listen politely when others speak; and
- be courteous to staff, parents, visitors, and other students.

*I have the right to:*

- work in a clean and safe environment.

*I have the responsibility to:*

- respect the property of others;
- keep the school and grounds free of litter;
- conduct myself in a safe and respectful manner in all spaces of the school, on the playground, and on the bus at all times; and
- follow school and classroom rules.

*I have the right to:*

- learn and to achieve my best.

*I have the responsibility to:*

- attend school regularly;
- complete all class assignments and homework on time;
- take pride in doing my very best work; and
- allow other students to do their best in the classroom.

*I have the right to:*

- participate in extra-curricular activities and field trips.

*I have the responsibility to:*

- follow the school's behavioural expectations away from the school; and
- always act as a "good ambassador" of Westview Elementary School during these activities.

***The following behaviors are unacceptable at Westview Elementary School:***

- Hitting, kicking and uncalled for physical roughness.
- Intimidating behaviors – threats, harassment, verbal abuse, bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, intimidation, threatening or violent behaviours.
- Defiance of an adult's instructions.
- Throwing objects (rocks, sticks, snowballs, etc.).
- Damaging or stealing property.
- Any efforts to cause harm or discriminate against another person 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, or age of that person or class of persons, or for any other reason set out in the Human Rights Code of British Columbia.
- Publishing or displaying anything that would indicate an intention to discriminate against another, or expose them to contempt or ridicule, on the basis of any such grounds outlined in the Human Rights Code of British Columbia.
- Acts of retaliation against a student who has reported incidents where the code of conduct has been broken.

Please note: *Special consideration 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.*

*As students progress through school, they are subject to rising expectations:*

- Acquiring greater knowledge and understanding about their personal behavior and its impact on others;
- Learning and using appropriate decision-making strategies;
- Demonstrating increasing self-discipline;
- Taking increasing personal responsibility for inappropriate behavior.

**c) Consequences**

Consequences will consider the nature and frequency of the unacceptable behavior, the age and maturity of students, and diverse or special needs, if any, when determining appropriate disciplinary action. Minor problems are dealt with on the spot through discussion and reminders of expectations, or the possibility of logical consequences (e.g. misusing materials or equipment could lead to a loss of privileges for a specified period).

Students who continue to make poor choices despite minor consequences, or whose actions fall in the “unacceptable” group will be given escalating time-outs from the playground. This will generally involve a 20-minute problem-solving session with a staff member during the lunch break. During this time, students will discuss more appropriate strategies and work out a written plan for how they can handle similar situations in the future.

For the most serious of school-level problems at the discretion of the principal (or designate), the consequences may include an in- and/or out-of-school suspension.

*Consequences should, where appropriate:*

- be thoughtful, consistent and fair
- seek to prevent a recurrence of the offense
- teach acceptable social behavior rather than be merely punitive
- provide means for restitution and restorative actions
- involve the offender in determining a corrective plan of action

#### **d) Personal Digital Devices**

Personal Digital Devices (PDDs): refer to any personal electronic devices that can be used to communicate or access the internet, including but not limited to: cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, and handheld video games systems.

- PDD’s are to be stored in silent mode from bell to bell, including during instructional time to ensure a focussed learning environment.
- At the teacher’s discretion, an exemption may be made when the use of such devices supports a specific curricular objective and is part of instruction. It is generally expected that the use of PDDs will be extremely limited during the elementary years.
- Students who refuse to comply, will be subject to progressive disciplinary measures in alignment with the Code of Conduct, which may include: parent contact; confiscation of the PDD; refusal to have PDD at school; and other progressive consequences.

#### **e) Notification**

Communication between home and school is important. When students violate the Code of Conduct the school may contact:

- The parents of the student who behaved in an unacceptable manner.
- The parents of the student victim(s).

When serious breaches of the Code of Conduct take place, the principal may have a responsibility to advise other parties (e.g. school district officials, other agencies, etc.).

The safety and wellbeing of each child at Westview Elementary is our priority.  
Our Code of Conduct was designed to reflect this.

At Westview Elementary we believe in “The Golden Rule”: ***Treat others as you want to be treated.***