

Brooks Secondary

Code of Conduct

Introduction

Brooks Secondary School has the responsibility to provide and ensure a safe and positive climate for learning. The Code of Conduct provides a general framework of expectations for student behavior at school, school-related events and in the community.

Conduct by any student that adversely affects a school climate or operation, including disruption of the learning environment, shall be considered a breach of the Code of Conduct, warranting an appropriate intervention or consequence.

The Principal shall, in accordance with School Board policy, exercise paramount authority within the school in matters concerning the discipline of students. The board authorizes the Principal in School District 47 (Powell River) to suspend a student in violation of school rules, to adjust or terminate that suspension, and to delegate this authority to other administrative officers.

Statement of Purpose

The Purpose of the Code of Conduct is to provide and maintain a safe, caring, and orderly environment for purposeful learning and to establish and maintain appropriate balances between individual and collective rights, freedoms, and responsibilities, as well as ensure that the rights and responsibilities of individuals are appropriately balanced to uphold the collective well-being of all.

Brooks Secondary promotes the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code, respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law and prohibiting discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and age – in respect of discriminatory publication and discrimination in accommodation, service and facility in the school environment.

The code of conduct will communicate the expectations of student behaviour to all members of the school community.

Acceptable Conduct supports a positive learning environment. It is expected that students:

- Apply themselves to the best of their ability in all aspects of their education
- Attend school and classes regularly, punctually, and properly prepared
- Respect self, others, the school property and environment
- Maintain appropriate standards of hygiene, dress and language
- Contribute positively to a safe, caring and orderly school community
- Behave in an ethical and lawful manner
- Report any incidents of threat-making, bullying, harassment, violence or intimidation
- Use district-owned and personal electronic devices in a courteous, responsible and ethical manner
- Understand it is the responsibility of the bystander to report and prevent activities that contravene school and district Codes of Conduct.
- Personal Digital Devices (PDDs) are to be stored in silent mode during instructional time from “bell to bell” to ensure focused learning environment. At the teacher discretion, an exemption may be made when the use of such devices supports a specific curricular objective and is part of instruction.
- As outlined in an Individual Education Plan (IEP), Learning Support plan (LSP), or health plan, schools will exempt students from restriction on the use of personal internet connected device when they are needed for full inclusion in a specific activity.
- PDDs are not to be taken into test or examination settings unless students have been given permission to do so.

Unacceptable Conduct interferes with a positive learning environment. Some examples of unacceptable behaviours include:

- Skipping classes or excessive tardiness.
- Vandalism or other incidents of defacing or damaging personal, school, or private property. Note: Students and/or their parents/guardians are responsible for reimbursing SD47 for costs incurred due to vandalism, graffiti and similar cases.
- Abusing others physically, verbally, or psychologically. This includes fighting, bullying, cyberbullying, intimidation, threatening or violent behaviours, extorting, or showing intolerance towards others because of their race, culture, dress, or other perceived differences while at school, at a school-related activity or in other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the school environment.
- Disrupting classroom learning, official school functions or the privacy of our school's neighbours.
- Possession or use of prohibited drugs, alcohol, cannabis and tobacco products, (including being in the vicinity of others engaged in using prohibited drugs, cannabis and alcohol).

- Possession or use of firecrackers, fireworks, or items used to simulate fireworks.
- Possession or use of weapons, including any object meant to simulate the appearance of a weapon.
- Plagiarizing or cheating on tests, assignments or projects, or assisting someone else to cheat. Defiance of the authority of teachers and other employees; using profanity or confrontational behaviour in dealing with these adults.
- Theft.
- Using inappropriate language or dressing in a way that detracts from the learning environment.
- Going to other schools during the school day, without permission from an administrator.
- Operation of a vehicle or other means of transport in a dangerous manner on school property (including cars, bicycles, scooters and skateboards).
- Using personal digital devices (PDDs) not required for instructional purposes. Such items should not be brought into the classroom and may be confiscated by the teacher. Any confiscated devices will be securely stored and returned later.
- Students who consistently refuse to comply with the School's procedures for use of PDDs in the school setting may be subject to progressive disciplinary measures.

Rising Expectations

As students progress through school, they are expected to mature, acquire greater knowledge and understanding about their personal behaviour and its impact on others and to take personal responsibility for their actions and learning. Students in breach of the Code of Conduct may be subject to a consequence.

Consequences

Consideration will be given to the age and the maturity, grade level, ability as well as the intellectual, social and emotional capacity of the student along with the severity, frequency and ability to control behaviour. Special considerations may apply to students with special needs, if they are unable to comply with the Code of Conduct due to having a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature.

Consequences will, where appropriate:

- Be thoughtful, consistent, and fair
- Seek to prevent a recurrence of the offense
- Teach acceptable social behaviour rather than be merely punitive

And additionally, where appropriate:

- Provide means for restitution and restorative actions
- Involve the offender in determining a corrective plan of action.

Notification

It is understood that communication is essential to the home-school partnership. Notification will be given to the school's community of the school's Code of Conduct.

As well, notice will be given to the parents and students of Brooks Secondary School of the range of responses that schools may apply to breaches of the Code of Conduct including threat-making behaviours.

Therefore, for breaches of the Code of Conduct, notification may occur as needed:

- Parents of student in breach of the Code of Conduct
- Parents of student victim(s)
- School and District personnel – where appropriate
- Police and/or other agencies – where appropriate or required by law
- All parents of the school community – when deemed important to reassure members of the school community that school and district officials are aware of a serious situation or incident and are taking appropriate action to address it
- When the breach of the Code of Conduct is criminal in nature, police will be consulted prior to public notification.

Reporting of Unacceptable Conduct

If a person reports that another student has breached the school's code of conduct, the school will take all reasonable steps to maintain the reporting student's confidentiality and take all reasonable steps to prevent retaliation.

The Human Rights Code states discrimination occurs when someone is treated differently and poorly because of their race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital or family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, criminal conviction, political belief or any other reason set out in the Human Rights Code of British Columbia, nor shall a student publish or display anything that would indicate an intention to discriminate against another, or expose them to contempt or ridicule, on the basis of any such ground

