

Unsworth Elementary Code of Conduct

(Revised Sept 2017)

Purpose

The Unsworth School Community is a positive, safe, caring place where we work together responsibly and respectfully in order to develop each child's individual skills and abilities. Our Code of Conduct takes into account the rights, freedoms and responsibilities of both individuals and the school community and clarifies behaviours that are acceptable and unacceptable.

The Code of Conduct is established to maintain a safe, caring and orderly environment that allows for purposeful learning to take place for all. Students, staff and parents are responsible for respecting the rights and dignity of others in a learning environment free from discrimination as set out in the B.C. Human Rights' Code.

Behaviors and acts that interfere with the learning of others, or create unsafe physical or emotional conditions are considered unacceptable. Behaviours cited below are examples of unacceptable behaviours. Also included are examples of Discriminatory acts as identified in the Human Rights Code:

Conduct Expectations

Our Code of Conduct is designed to teach children to make choices with a focus on:

- **Self -Regulation** and contributing to a safe, caring and **Orderly** school community;
- Demonstrating positive **Attitudes** towards themselves and others and putting forth their best efforts to engage in purposeful learning;
- **Respecting** self, others and the school;

It is understood that as students become older and more mature, expectations of responsibility and self-discipline will increase. This may also lead to increasing consequences for inappropriate behaviour.

Expectations of Conduct

Expectations apply to behavior at school, during school organized or sponsored activities, as well as behaviour beyond school hours (including on-line bullying that negatively impacts the safe, orderly environment of the school and/or student learning.)

Acceptable Conduct

While going to and from the school and while attending any school function students are expected to:

- Respect themselves and the rights of others;
- Respect the property of others and the school;
- Attend school regularly and punctually;
- Inform an adult of any unsafe behavior;
- Work diligently and to the best of their ability; and
- Abide by school rules and expectations and act in a manner that positively represents the school

Unacceptable Conduct

All behaviors are not listed below in the Code, but those cited are examples of unacceptable conduct that has a negative impact on the school environment and individual's feeling of safety in the school environment.

Unacceptable conduct defined as:

Behaviors that interfere with *the learning of others, (including the emotional well-being of others), or with an orderly environment, or behaviours that create unsafe conditions* are considered unacceptable.

Acts such as: *bullying (verbal, physical/on-line or cyber bullying), harassment or intimidation, physical violence or retribution against a person who has reported incidents* are considered unacceptable conduct.

Illegal acts such as; *possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances, possession or use of weapons, theft of or damage to property* are considered unacceptable.

All behaviours are not listed below, but those cited are examples of **unacceptable or discriminatory conduct**:

- * Vandalism
- * Weapons
- * Illegal substances
- * Lying/cheating
- * Bullying (verbal/physical/on-line or cyber bullying)
- * Theft
- * Insolence/defiance
- * Harassment/racism
- * Violence

Discriminatory acts based on religion, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, family status or age

Consequences

When a student chooses actions detrimental to themselves or the school community, progressive discipline or consequences will apply. The severity, frequency, age and maturity level of the students is taken into consideration when unacceptable conduct occurs.

Responses to unacceptable student conduct is progressive in nature and is consistent and fair. Considerations may apply to students with a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature when determining appropriate disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action, whenever possible, is preventative and restorative, rather than merely punitive. As often as possible, students are encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences using:

- Problem solving assignments
- Restorative circles
- Contracts/school public service opportunities
- Counseling
- Suspension (in school/out of school)

The school will take all reasonable steps to prevent retaliation against a person who has made a complaint about a breach of conduct.

Notification and Communication

At Unsworth Elementary we share a responsibility to protect and preserve every student's right to learn in a safe and respectful environment. The classroom teacher responds to most issues arising from classroom behaviour. Issues of major code of conduct offences or chronic behavior concerns are referred to the Principal/ VP. In the event that there is a concern for the safety of a student, students or staff; school staff have a legal responsibility to inform and advise outside agencies (E.g. District Officials, Police, Child Protection Ministry and/or other agencies.) of concerns or serious breaches of the Code of Conduct.