

Student Code of Conduct

The School Rights and Responsibilities Code is based on the following rationale:

Rationale:

The purpose of our Code is to provide a framework for behaviour which allows for learning to take place with a minimum of disruptions. The school district, in a set of guidelines governing student conduct states: "The Board believes that the school must be a place for orderly, purposeful, high quality endeavours, within a pleasant, positive and supportive atmosphere of human interaction."

Good discipline is usually positive rather than negative in nature, and is directed toward the over-riding principle of responsibility to others. Good discipline seeks to help students develop positive social skills such as making responsible decisions when interacting with others, accepting consequences for their actions, and learning from experiences. Good discipline builds upon students' strengths, improves self-confidence, and encourages them to be self-directing.

At **Stawamus Elementary School** we strive to develop social responsibility within the students by teaching that:

- Behaviour is a matter of choice not chance, and helping students realize they have choices is critical to their social and emotional development.
- Accepting responsibility for our actions by acting as the person we are striving to be at all times.
- Accepting responsibility for our actions by trying to fix or repair mistakes, is a major component of being a socially responsible person
- Self control and communication skills are life long skills
- Clear understanding of school beliefs helps to create a safe and positive school climate

These principles are taught and reviewed by the staff.

Mission Statement

At Stawamus Elementary School we, the school community believe in being:

- Socially Responsible
- Safe, Caring and Respectful
- Active, Willing Learners

Each member of the school community has the right to enjoy a school climate that is safe, satisfying and productive. Along with individual rights come corresponding responsibilities.

N.B. : All students are subject to the School District Code of Pupil Conduct. The code of conduct applies to any student who is on school property, who is in attendance at school sponsored activity, or whose conduct at any time or place has a direct and immediate affect on maintaining order and discipline in the school.

Minor Incidents

Minor incidents will be handled “on the spot” by any staff member. Students will have the opportunity to learn constructive alternatives for the future.

A pattern of minor incidents indicates that a student has not yet learned enough constructive alternatives. A more formal plan will be adopted to ensure the child has every opportunity to master a variety of socially responsible alternatives.

Major Incidents

Failure to live up to the school beliefs has a serious impact on oneself and on others, and as such will be considered major incidents. These include such matters as:

- stealing or vandalism
- mocking; name-calling; teasing, spreading rumours
- any violent behaviour whether physical or verbal
- racist, sexist, or homophobic discrimination
- excluding a person from a group
- possession of illegal or banned substance (including weapons)
- continuous or sustained unwillingness to participate in school work and activities.

and any other conduct which interferes with or threatens the orderly functioning of the school, adversely affects the well-being of others, or is injurious to the safety of students and staff.

If the same student is involved in several minor incidents in a short period of time, or in a major incident, his/her parent or guardian will be notified by phone or in writing and may be involved in any subsequent formulation of a plan for restitution, and discussions between students and teacher or administrator.

In response to all offences of a more serious nature any one or more of the following steps may be taken:

- A formal plan for a restitution will be made, which will include the learning which needs to occur to stop the problem.
- Principal is informed and record is made.
- Parent and or student meets with Principal/Vice Principal.
- In-school or out-of-school suspension may apply.

Please Note...

The steps described above are guidelines only and the Administration may vary the guidelines in response to the severity of the situation.

Conflict Avoidance

Conflict is a common outcome of human interaction. To help our students deal with conflict we teach students a method for resolving conflict. When a student is interfered with or bothered by the actions or words of another student, he or she is taught to respond as follows:

1. *Tell the other student firmly but politely what is bothersome and ask them to stop.*
2. *Walk away or ignore the problem if possible*
3. *Should the problem persist, obtain help from an adult.*

(May 2004)