



## *Code of Conduct 2017/18*

*"Enhancing our children's moral intelligence is our best hope for getting our kids on the right course so that they do act as well as think right."*

*(Michelle Borba, 2001)*

Nanoose Bay Elementary strives to develop a community of respectful, compassionate, enthusiastic and conscientious learners. To support our students in their development, we use common language across our school and we invite families to use similar language to reinforce the learning students are engaged in while at school. We work to help students recognize that at any given moment they have the power to make positive, helpful choices. Supporting students to make healthy choices provides opportunities for students to develop their core competencies of Thinking, Personal and Social Responsibility, and Identity and Communication. We actively teach and promote school-wide virtues that illuminate and promote positive, universal character traits. We base our Code of Conduct and discussions regarding student choices on the following virtues:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Cooperation
- Peacefulness

We encourage and expect members of our school community to develop personal problem solving skills. All people experience occasional conflict and we teach students the acronym 'TWA' as a simple way for them to independently resolve conflicts.

1. Talk to the person
2. Walk away from the problem
3. Ask an adult for help

In addition to developing personal problem solving skills, we recognize that there are times when adult assistance is required to resolve conflict. Students are encouraged to seek timely assistance in resolving such conflicts. When problems do occur, solutions may involve incremental consequences.

Children are encouraged to notify adults regarding serious misbehaviour by other students. All reasonable steps will be taken to prevent retaliation against any student who has reported another student's misbehaviour.

Students are expected to follow the Code of Conduct on the way to and from school, in all areas of the school and in all play areas at the school.

We encourage and celebrate parent involvement with their children's education. We know that good communication between school and home as well as parent's active interest in our school community makes a difference in their child's social and academic progress. If parents have any information or concerns about student conduct at school, particularly around issues of safety, we ask that you discuss your concerns with your child's teacher or the principal or vice-principal as soon as possible.

## *Consequences for Unacceptable Behaviour:*

We are responsible for providing a safe environment for all of our students. In the event of unacceptable behaviour, appropriate consequences or disciplinary action will follow. Teachers and administrators will determine the appropriate consequences and course of action.

Behaviours that require intervention are those that:

- interfere with the learning of others;
- interfere with an orderly environment;
- create unsafe or hurtful situations.

In cases where significant behaviour intervention is required, we will work closely with parents and staff to develop common understanding and language to support each other at school, and at home.

The criteria for determining appropriate consequences will:

- be in keeping with the child's developmental level;
- be dependent on the nature of the behaviour, including its intent, severity and frequency;
- include possibilities for restoring relationships;
- maintain the dignity of all parties.

Consequences may include:

- a letter of apology, acts of kindness, community or school service;
- establishing a behaviour contract;
- a regular, formal review of behaviour together with parent/student/teacher conferences;
- completion of a 'think sheet' by student (and sent home to parents);
- a detention, in-school or formal suspension. (Parents receive written notification regarding formal suspensions. A copy of the letter for a formal suspension is kept in the student's file).

The following are examples of behavior that are unacceptable at NBES and could result in suspension:

- willful disobedience, defiance; deliberately misleading adults in authority;
- stealing; deliberate dishonesty;
- bringing weapons, explosives, or illegal substances onto the school property;
- fighting, intimidating, harassing, threatening, or bullying.

The Nanoose Bay Elementary School community supports the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law prohibiting discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, or age.

In application of our school's Code of Conduct, special considerations may apply to students with Special Needs if those students are unable to comply due to having a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioral nature.

The Principal or vice principal may advise other parties or agencies of serious breaches of the Code of Conduct (ie: parents, school district officials, RCMP, Ministry of Children and Family Development).