

***Code of Conduct 2014/15***

***“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)***

At Nanoose Bay Elementary we believe that it is important to develop the heart and educate the mind. We are working to develop a community that cultivates compassion. We strive to help students to recognize that rights and responsibilities are interdependent and that at any given moment they have the power to make positive, helpful choices.

At Nanoose Bay Elementary we celebrate and are guided by **‘The Virtues Program**’, an international **Character Education Program** that seeks to honour and respect every child. We actively teach and promote school wide virtues that illuminate and promote positive, universal character traits. We base our discipline system and Code of Conduct on the following virtues:

**Respect**: Students will treat others as they would like to be treated. They will use courtesy and kindness to communicate with one another. They will respect the rights, feelings, property and safety of all persons.

**Responsibility**: Students will make dependable choices and be accountable for their actions.

**Cooperation and Peacefulness**: Students will cooperate with others and help to create a playground that is safe, peaceful and enjoyable for everyone.

***We believe****:*

* it is **our responsibility** to provide a **SAFE**, **ORDERLY**, and **CARING** learning environment for all Nanoose Bay children;
* in behavioural strategies that are both educative and restorative;
* that children want to be helpful, that positive behaviours can be learned, and that teaching socially responsible behaviours requires modeling, time, consistency and practice;
* that parents and school staff should work together to promote and model **RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, COOPERATION and PEACEFULNESS**;
* that the manner in which we respond to unacceptable behaviour is key to supporting a young person in making the positive changes required: we believe in an approach that encourages children to ‘grow their virtues’;
* that “discipline” is not something that happens to “bad students”, but rather that it is based on clear and compassionate guidelines that assist and support students who are making mistakes/poor choices;
* that our students are both individuals, and members of families. As a result, in cases where significant behaviour intervention is required, we will work closely with parents to develop common understandings to support each other at school, and at home;
* that students who are unable to respond appropriately to the proactive measures embedded in our culture will be subject to other disciplinary processes.
* there are to be no electronic devices brought to school.

***Consequences for Unacceptable Behaviour:***

We are responsible for providing a safe environment for **all** of our students. Therefore, we will not tolerate ***any behaviour that compromises the physical or emotional well-being of self or others****.* 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.

**The criteria for determining appropriate consequences will:**

* be made known to the offender and be applied in the event the unacceptable behaviour is repeated;
* 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 which is unacceptable at NBES and could result in suspension:

* + Wilful 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

We encourage and expect children to develop personal problem solving skills. We teach them the acronym ‘**TWA’** as a simple way for them to independently resolve conflicts.

**1. TELL THEM TO STOP**

**= 2. WALK AWAY FROM THE PROBLEM**

**3. ASK AN ADULT FOR ASSISTANCE**

**NBES MISSION STATEMENT ON BULLYING**

**Nanoose Bay Elementary School is an “environment” free of bullying behaviour**.

**We work together to**:

**Resolve conflict peacefully.**

**Include others in all activities.**

**Respect differences.**

At NBES we have a **school-wide focus on bullying**. All of our students were part of a Canada-wide anti-bullying day and participated in a special assembly wearing pink ‘Respect the Right to be Different t-shirts’. We are teaching students to identify bullying behaviour, and are giving them strategies to deal with it. We believe that by teaching all students to be respectful, friendly and compassionate it will go a long way toward building a caring and bully-free culture.

All children are the victims of occasional teasing behaviour or aggression, but some children are repeatedly targeted. Bullying is repeated exposure to negative actions. Bullying means that there is an imbalance of power so that the child being victimized has trouble defending himself or herself. If parents have any information or concerns about student conduct at school, particularly around issues of safety and bullying, **we ask that you discuss them immediately with your child’s teacher or the principal.** In accordance with School District 69 Board of Education Policy, serious cases of bullying may result in school suspension.

**Parent Involvement:** 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.

**BC Human Rights:** 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, color, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical and mental disability, sex or sexual orientation.

**Prevention of Retaliation:** All reasonable steps will be taken to prevent retaliation against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of a code of conduct.

**Special Consideration:** 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.

**Serious Breaches of the Code of Conduct:** The Principal may advise other parties or agencies of serious breaches of the Code of Conduct (ie: parents, school district officials, RCMP, MCFD).