

# **Vermilion Forks School's**

## **Code of Conduct**

### **Purpose:**

At VFE, we believe that a safe and orderly environment provides the best backdrop for successful student learning and positive social interactions.

Vermilion Forks School promotes 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 or sexual orientation – in respect of discriminatory publication and discrimination in accommodation, service and facility in the school environment.

Therefore, our code of conduct is based on the guiding principles of both individual and collective:

### **Rights, Respect & Responsibility**

**Rights** something that is due a person; what is good, just or lawful

**Respect** to treat everyone with dignity, care, consideration, inclusion and honour

**Responsibility** to accept ownership for the results of your personal actions and decisions;  
an obligation or duty to behave in an appropriate manner;  
and, not blaming, justifying or quitting

### **Expectations:**

**Rights** All people in our school community have the right to:  
learn;  
be heard;  
be safe; and,  
to be treated with respect.

**Respect** Each person should:  
be treated and spoken to with dignity and courtesy;  
respect the school's property and the property of individuals within the school;  
and, respect their own rights and the rights of others.  
(i.e. being polite; including all in activities; being kind and sensitive to the feelings of others; following classroom and school rules;

wearing appropriate clothing; allowing others to speak; using appropriate voice and language; putting litter in garbage cans; etc.)

**Responsibility** Everyone should take responsibility for their actions, decisions and personal belongings.

(ie. being on time; participating and giving your best effort; cooperating with others; being honest; reporting damage; accepting consequences for actions; using equipment appropriately; informing an adult, in a timely manner, of bullying, harassment or intimidation incidents; cleaning up after yourself; etc.)

**Unacceptable Conduct:** The following is not an all-inclusive list. It exemplifies the types of behaviours or acts that will not be condoned at school:

Bullying	Harassment or Intimidation	Possession of a Weapon
Swearing	Defiant Behaviour	Abuse of Property
Fighting	Endangering Yourself or Others	Stealing
Possession or use of Cigarettes, Drugs or Alcohol		

The school will treat seriously behaviour or communication that discriminates based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation (prohibited grounds set out in the BC Human Rights Code).

Special considerations may apply to students with special needs, if they are unable to comply due to having a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioral nature.

The Board will also take all reasonable steps to prevent retaliation by a person against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of a Code of Conduct.

**Consequences:**

Considerations:

1. Severity of infraction
2. Frequency of inappropriate behaviour
3. Age and maturity of student (As students move through the grades and become older and more mature, we believe they should be held more accountable for their decisions.)
4. Response of student to misbehaviour

Possible Outcomes:

Loss of privileges  
Counselling  
Social Behaviour Lesson

Report written by student  
Duty or Service to School or Fellow Students  
Restitution

In-school suspension  
Out of school suspension  
Expulsion

Whenever possible and appropriate, any consequences applied will be of a restorative nature rather than punitive.

Students are often, but not always, encouraged to participate in determining what is appropriate as a consequence for their offense.

### **Notification**

School officials may have a responsibility to advise other parties of serious breaches of the code of conduct, such as:

- parents of offenders and victims
- school district officials – as required by school district policy
- police and/or other agencies – as required by law
- all parents – when deemed to be important to reassure members of the school community that school officials are aware of a serious situation or incident and are taking appropriate action to address it.

### **Application**

These expectations apply to behaviour at school, during school-organized or sponsored activities, and behaviour beyond these times (including on-line behaviour) that negatively impacts the safe, caring or orderly environment of the school, and / or student learning.

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## Dress Code

1. Everyone should dress in a manner that is appropriate for school. Clothing should have no profanity or reference to drugs, alcohol or sex. In addition, clothing should not be excessively revealing or allow underwear to show. (Examples: Spaghetti strapped tops, short shorts and bare midriffs are not acceptable. Tank tops will be permitted in the warmer weather months.)
  2. Hats / headwear are not permitted to be worn indoors as a sign of respect - this applies to both our male and female students.
  3. Students need to have a pair of indoor shoes for school. Normally, these would be sneakers appropriate for student participation in the gym.
  4. All students need to bring a change of clothing appropriate for their physical education class, including sneakers with non-marking soles.
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