



BICS CODE OF CONDUCT

Purpose

At Bowen Island Community School, we strive to maintain a safe, caring, and orderly school that helps our students develop skills that will result in socially responsible citizens. The school promotes the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code respecting the rights of all individuals under the law. Discrimination will not be tolerated based on, but not limited to, appearance, Indigenous identity, race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, political belief, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age.

The Code of Conduct applies on the school site for all school programs and activities; outside of the school site during school programs and activities; when students are travelling to and from school when deemed appropriate by the school (e.g. busing, school-arranged carpooling, etc.); and behaviour beyond these times (including online behaviour) that negatively impacts the safe, caring, and orderly environment of the school and/or student learning.

Acceptable Behaviours

Students are expected to act in a safe and supportive way, caring for each other and showing respect for those around them. Behaviours that are **safe, fair, and kind** will generally be deemed as acceptable behaviours and students are encouraged to reflect on these three descriptors when considering their actions.

Behaviours Deemed Unacceptable

Unacceptable Behaviours are those that are unsafe, unfair, and/or unkind, that might interfere with the learning of others or compromise their safety, such as:

- Repeatedly defying and ignoring school and classroom rules
- Vandalism
- Unsafe play
- Carrying a weapon, or objects that imitate or resemble a weapon

Behaviours that would be considered hurtful to others:

- Blatant disrespectful behaviour
- Teasing, bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, intimidation, threatening or violent behaviours while at school, at a school-related activity, or in other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the school environment

Expectations and Approach to Inappropriate Behaviour

As students become older and more mature, there is a progression in our expectations to appropriate behavior. For example:

- Increasing personal responsibility and self-discipline
- Increasing consequences for inappropriate behaviour

Consequences may be applied differentially to students with special needs and/or learning differences. Special considerations may apply with aspects of the Code of Conduct due to a disability of intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature. Special consideration and advocacy may also apply for students and families of Indigenous ancestry, with an approach that is mindful of historical context and indigenous way so of knowing and perspectives.

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

Consequences:

- Will encourage students to reflect upon their behaviour and learn alternative ways to deal with future problems
- May include a school community service component
- Will, wherever possible, include student input so that restitution is meaningful

Notification

It is the school's responsibility to advise other parties of serious breaches of the school Code of Conduct.

These parties may include:

- The parents of student victim(s)
- The parents of student offender(s)
- School District officials
- Police and/or other agencies, as required by law

Dress Code

Students may attend school and school-related functions in dress of their choice provided that their choices: do not represent or promote alcohol or drugs; use respectful language; do not depict or promote violence, racism, sexism, or discrimination; conform with established health and safety requirements of the intended activity; and are not intimidating to others. Students have a right to dress in a manner consistent with their gender identity or gender expression.

Personal Digital Devices

Personal Digital Devices* are to be appropriately used during the school day including before school, after school and break times in accordance with the [District Admin Procedure 370](#) and the student expectations outlined within this School Code of Conduct.

If a personal digital device is required for instructional purposes, or to support a student's medical and health or accessibility and accommodation needs, **teachers/staff will provide clear guidelines and expectations around their use for these purposes** and ensure that use is **adequately supervised**. Considerations for personal digital device use will also be made to ensure equity to support learning outcomes for any student who may be disproportionately impacted by the lack of access.

*Personal Digital Devices means any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or to access the internet, such as cell phones, phones, laptops, tablets, smartwatches, and any other portable technology device.

Parent Signature

Date