



**GIBSONS ELEMENTARY**

*We learn today to succeed tomorrow.*

## **GIBSONS ELEMENTARY CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Our Values:**

**RESILIENT, OPEN-MINDED, CONNECTED, KIND, SAFE**

### **RATIONALE**

The Gibsons Elementary School Code of Conduct is designed to support our community in a safe, caring and orderly school environment for learning and working. This includes behavior both on school premises and during activities that are off school premises and are organized/sponsored by the school. Students are expected to know, understand and follow the school's Code of Conduct.

Link to School District Code of Conduct: <https://sd46.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/1080-District-and-School-Student-Codes-of-Conduct.pdf>

### **BC HUMAN RIGHTS CODE**

All members of the school community must adhere to the principles of the BC Human Rights Code particularly Sections 7 and 8, ensuring no individual is discriminated against on the basis of race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age. The BC Human rights Code is a core element to the District and School Code of Conduct.

Link to BC Human Rights Code:  
[https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/00\\_96210\\_01](https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/00_96210_01)

### **ATTENDANCE**

Regular attendance is critical for student success and wellbeing. Students will follow the school and district codes of conduct and will attend school regularly

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as indicated in the school act. Parents will support their child in attending school and will inform the school of excused absences.

### ACCEPTABLE CONDUCT

The following are examples of acceptable behaviours (this is not to be viewed as an exhaustive list):

- \* to treat others the way you want to be treated
- \* to act in ways that ensure the physical and emotional well-being of self and others
- \* to treat others with kindness
- \* to use appropriate language
- \* to be accountable for your decisions and actions
- \* to be honest and trustworthy
- \* to respect self, others and the environment
- \* to be inclusive of others
- \* to tell an adult of incidents of bullying, harassment or intimidation in a timely manner

### UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT

The following are examples of unacceptable conduct (this is not to be viewed as an exhaustive list):

Behaviours that:

- \* interfere with the learning of self or others, including their emotional well-being
- \* interfere with a safe, caring and respectful environment
- \* create unsafe conditions inside and outside of the school, including the bus

Acts, such as:

- \* bullying, discrimination, harassment or intimidation
- \* physical violence
- \* retribution against a person who has reported incidents

Illegal acts, such as:

- \* possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances
- \* possession or use of weapons
- \* theft or damage to property

ERASE is a confidential online resource and reporting tool:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase>

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### CONSEQUENCES FOR UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT

Appropriate disciplinary action will take into consideration the severity and frequency of the unacceptable conduct as well as the age, maturity and the unique needs of the student. Wherever possible and appropriate, restorative and preventative rather than punitive consequences will be the focus.

Students, as often as possible, are encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences for violations of the established code of conduct and are given the opportunity to provide restitution in a form they are responsible for creating.

We view misbehaviour as an error in judgment (i.e. the student has made an inappropriate choice of behaviour) and is an opportunity for further learning. Certain behaviours are totally unacceptable at Gibsons Elementary School and will result in immediate discipline, which may include an in-school or at-home suspension. These behaviours include: fighting and violence against other students or staff members, bullying, harassment and intimidation, defiance, retribution against a person who has reported incidents, possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances, possession or use of weapons, theft or damage to property. Discrimination as set out in the BC Human Rights Code (defined as the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or things, especially on the grounds of race, age, sex or gender identity).

Link to District Suspension Regulation: <https://sd46.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/1320-Student-Suspensions.pdf>

### RISING EXPECTATIONS

As students become older and progress through the grades, expectations in regards to their behaviour and level of responsibility also grows, as does the expectation that they will make more mature decisions regarding their own rights and responsibilities as well as those of others. Therefore, the consequences for inappropriate or disrespectful behaviour may vary according to each student's age, maturity and needs and will be considered a factor when providing consequences/learning opportunities for students to learn from their mistakes and make more appropriate decisions and demonstrate appropriate behaviours.

It is understood that as students become older, more mature and move through successive grades, the school has rising student expectations regarding personal responsibility and self-discipline, as well as, increasing consequences for unacceptable conduct.

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### NOTIFICATION

In cases of serious misconduct, the school will notify parents. School district officials, the police and other agencies may be informed when required by law, school regulation or when otherwise appropriate.

### VTRA FAIR NOTICE

As part of our Safe Schools policy, we would like to remind all parents of our VTRA (Violent Threat Risk Assessment) process that is used in the District to keep all students and staff safe. We, as a school district, have been involved in intensive safety training with our community partners – the RCMP, Ministry of Children and Family Development and other community agencies and services. Together, we have developed a plan for responding to all situations in which students may be posing a threat to themselves or others.

This plan requires principals to complete a “threat assessment” in all cases of students making significant threats to harm themselves or others. The purpose of the assessment is to determine how best to support high-risk students so that their behaviour does not become hurtful or destructive. If your child comes home to tell you that a student has behaved in a threatening way at school, please be assured that your principal will be taking measures to deal with the situation in a positive and proactive manner. If your principal invites you to a meeting to discuss safety concerns about your own child, please be assured that policy is being followed and that the goal is safety, not punishment.

This letter is intended to serve our community with fair notice that we, as a school community, will not accept “no response” to a serious threat. Our goal is to respond to all threats in a professional manner that provides for a healthy and caring learning environment.

We are proud to be able to provide this level of support to our school communities and are most fortunate to have our community partners at our side.

For more information on our VTRA/Fair Notice process, please refer to our school district website at <https://sd46.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/VTRA-Fair-Notice-Letter-for-families.pdf>

### DRESS CODE

At GES, students and staff are expected to dress in a manner appropriate to a school setting (e.g. only t-shirts with child-friendly logos or print with no offensive

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language, alcohol/drug images, brands or other advertisements etc.). Clothing, including footwear, should be safe and comfortable allowing for full participation in all activities. Hats and hoods will need to be removed during school assemblies.

### CELL PHONES, OTHER ELECTRONICS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

In line with the new British Columbia restrictions for cell phone use in schools, we are implementing a cell phone policy for a focused and respectful learning environment. **Cell phones are to be left at home.** If a student must bring a phone or other device (for medical or other extenuating circumstances), it will need to be handed in at the school office or given to the teacher upon arrival on school grounds. If a student's phone is seen during the school day or before the bell, they will be asked to give their phone to the office for the remainder of the day. Phones/devices will be kept in a locked box for safety and to minimize distractions during school hours. If you need to contact your child, please call the school at 604-886-2612. Gibsons Elementary School will not be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged technology.

When students use devices that belong to the school, they must abide by the School District's Regulation #1170: Appropriate Use of District Technology and Network. All users will respect the privacy of others, will not access other students' folders, follow copyright laws, respectfully use the device to complete teacher assignments, report behavior that is unsafe, will not damage or tamper with the device, or access inappropriate websites.

### SOCIAL MEDIA POSTING

We would like to take this opportunity at the start of the school year to remind all parents/caregivers that, in the interest of student safety, please do not post photos or videos of children other than your own, on social media sites without prior consent from the parent(s). Our principals aim to give this reminder at the start of school events, such as Winter concerts, talent shows and assemblies that involve student performances, and we depend on the responsible actions of all our parents to keep our students safe. We thank you in advance for your vigilance in this regard.