

Code of Conduct 2009 – 2010

(School Logo)

May 2009

D R A F T

James Park Elementary School

School Mission: As a community of learners, we are committed to providing a safe learning environment where we think critically, care deeply, act wisely and see ourselves as lifelong learners.

James Park Elementary Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct (the “Code”) outlines school expectations and acceptable school behaviour as directed by the School Act 85(2)(c). The Code exists to facilitate a safe, caring, and orderly environment for learning and working, and it recognizes the need for an appropriate balance between individual and collective rights, freedoms, and responsibilities.

Students are subject to both the District Code of Conduct for students and the school rules established by the Principal, at any time they are attending school and school sponsored functions and activities away from the school. Students may be subject to discipline under the school and/or District Code of Conduct for any conduct which has the effect of negatively impacting the school environment, whether that conduct occurs on or off School District property, at a school sponsored function or activity, or otherwise.

Process

Each year the Code is reviewed to reflect the school’s community needs, and to align with district and provincial school safety initiatives.

The Code is communicated to students, parents, staff and other district staff (also to visitors as deemed necessary). At the beginning of the year, the Code is discussed at a staff meeting, a PAC meeting and an SPC meeting. Throughout the year, the Code is actively taught, reinforced and monitored. Our School Planning Council has reviewed the Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools document. We have discussed how our school’s Code meets the Ministry requirements and District #43 (Coquitlam) policies.

Communication

Expectations regarding acceptable conduct are made known to all members of the James Park Community in the following ways:

The Student planner contains a copy of the Code. Parents are asked to discuss the Code with their child and to sign that they have done so.

Lessons are taught to students, and discussions held throughout the year, as the need arises.

All staff members receive a copy of the Code each year, and it is discussed at an early staff meeting. Staff model the behaviours expected, and they intervene actively if they see students behaving inappropriately towards each other.

Temporary/casual District staff will receive a copy of the Code the first time they come in.

Parents who volunteer are made aware again of the Code.

The Code is discussed at a PAC meeting, and with the SPC.

Aspects of the Code are highlighted in the monthly newsletter to parents (Spring of 2009).

School web site (by Fall 2009).

Implementation

Behavioural expectations in the Code are consistently taught and actively promoted. Responses to unacceptable behaviour are based consistently on sound principles and are appropriate to the context.

At James Park, the Code is taught and reinforced throughout the year. Students are taught the A.C.T. (Action from Caring and Thinking) Handbook which outlines expectations regarding playground, assemblies, emergency procedures, school entrances and hallways, indoor days and lunch time. Students are also taught to use their W.I.T.S. (walk away, ignore, talk about it, seek help). PAC and SPC are apprised of implementation events as they occur

4. Monitoring and Review

Conduct is continuously monitored to ensure codes reflect current and emerging situations and are contributing to school safety. The office keeps a record of recurrent behaviour issues and works with individual students through the principal, counsellor and/or youth worker, all in cooperation with the parent, with a goal to successfully correcting the behaviour. The Code is extremely thorough and generally supports our efforts with students and their families, as well as with adults in the school. However, should it become necessary through circumstance to make an addition or improvement to the Code, it will be done by May/June of that year. Staff, SPC and PAC will discuss the Code in May/June and make any changes necessary for the following year.

5. Alignment

The Code aligns with District policies, administrative procedures and the BC Human Rights Code. It is also compatible with the Codes of Conduct in neighbouring schools at all levels: elementary, middle and secondary levels.

Standards

James Park Elementary School promotes the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law and prohibiting discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, physical or mental disability, gender or sexual orientation in respect of discriminatory publication and discrimination in accommodation, service and facility in the school environment.

No student shall publish or display anything that would indicate an intention to discriminate against another, or expose them to contempt or ridicule, on the basis of any such grounds.

Standards: Statement of Purpose

To establish and maintain safe, caring and orderly environments for purposeful learning

To clarify and publish expectations for student behaviour while at school, while going to and from school and while attending any school function or activity at any location

Standards: Conduct Expectations

Acceptable conduct includes:

- Respecting oneself, others and the school facility
- Engaging in responsible behaviour in all learning and school activities
- Helping to ensure the school environment is a safe and caring place for all to learn
- Informing an adult of unsafe behaviour
- Modeling respectful and responsible behaviour at school and while acting as school ambassadors

Unacceptable conduct includes:

Behaviours that

- Interfere with the learning of others
- Interfere with an orderly environment
- Create unsafe conditions

Acts of

- Bullying*, 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 of or damage to property

Cyberspace Misconduct

- All school members must be aware of and familiar with the District *acceptable use policy* while using school technology
- Students may be subject to discipline for on or off campus misuse of technology if it negatively impacts on the school environment

* **bullying** is a pattern of repeated aggressive behaviour, with negative intent, directed from one person to another where there is a power imbalance; **harassment** is any unwelcome or unwanted act or comment that is hurtful, degrading, humiliating, or offensive to another person, particularly if the behaviour persists after the aggressor has been asked to stop; **intimidation** is the act of instilling fear in someone as a means of controlling that person.

Behaviours cited are examples only and not an all-inclusive list.

Standards: Rising expectations

At James Park, there is a progression of expectations held for students as they become

older, more mature and move through successive grades.

Students are expected to:

model positive behaviours for their peers and younger students
support and reinforce appropriate behaviours with one another
help in peaceful resolutions to problems and seek adult help regarding unacceptable conduct.

Standards: Consequences

Consequences will be applied to unacceptable student conduct in a timely, fair, judicious and responsible manner, with consequences for unacceptable behavior that take into account the student's age, maturity and special needs, if any*. The severity and frequency of unacceptable conduct is also considered in determining appropriate disciplinary action.

Responses to unacceptable conduct are pre-planned, consistent and fair. Disciplinary action, wherever possible, is preventative and restorative, rather than merely punitive.

Some of these methods could include one or more of the consequences below:

Students, as often as possible, are encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences for violations of the established code of conduct.

School or community counseling

Conflict resolution strategies

Small group mediations

Informal suspensions or "timeouts" at school or at home

Community service

Partial day school programs

Behaviour plans

Formal suspension: District Code of Conduct: Suspension Process – Level I, II or III (for serious or dangerous behaviours).

The School and the Board of Education will take all reasonable steps to prevent retaliation by a person against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of a Code.

*Special considerations may apply to the imposition of consequences on a student with special needs if the student is unable to comply with this Code due to a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature.

Notification

Depending on the nature of the unacceptable behaviour, the school staff will contact the following people:

Parents of the student offender(s) will be contacted

Parents of the student victim(s) will be contacted

Coquitlam School Board officials will be contacted as required by school district policy.

E.g. Level I, II and III suspensions

Policies and other agencies as required by law
School staff and school community as deemed appropriate by the school and/or district
administration.