



## The Mountain Meadows Mission

At Mountain Meadows Elementary we strive, as a community of teachers, parents and students, to promote social responsibility, lifelong learning, and academic success in a safe, inclusive and caring environment.

# MOUNTAIN MEADOWS ELEMENTARY CODE OF CONDUCT 2023 – 2024

## INTRODUCTION

Mountain Meadows Elementary is committed to creating and maintaining a safe, caring and orderly community. Staff, students and parents work together to create a positive culture within the school and throughout the community. Students are taught and practice socially responsible behaviour in a variety of settings such as the classroom, hallway, playground and gymnasium.

The process and product do reflect the School Act Section 85 (2) (c)

## KEY ELEMENTS of the CODE OF CONDUCT:

### 1. Process

“All British Columbia schools include students, parents and staff in the development and review of codes of conduct.”

Staff, students and parents have had input into the review and development of the Mountain Meadows Code of Conduct.

### 2. Communication

“Expectations regarding acceptable conduct are made known to all students, parents, and school staff, as well as to temporary staff or visitors. Protocols while acting as ambassadors of the school are made known to students, parents, coaches, and involved members of the greater community.”

Students are made aware of the School Code of Conduct in a variety of ways: school assemblies, classroom discussions, family discussions, counselling sessions and administrative meetings. The Code of Conduct is on the school website and in the student planner. In September, parents are required to review with their children.

## **Implementation**

“Behavioural expectations outlined in the code of conduct are consistently taught and actively promoted. Responses to unacceptable behaviour are based consistently on sound principles and are appropriate to the context.”

The Mountain Meadows Code of Conduct was rewritten on May 17, 2019 during a school Professional Development Day. The school staff decided to simplify the Code of Conduct so it was easy for young children to remember while at the same time being timeless so that students can follow these tenets for the rest of their lives.

- **Take care of yourself**
- **Take care of others**
- **Take care of our environment**

## **3. Monitoring and Review**

“Conduct is continuously monitored to ensure the code reflects current and emerging situations and are contributing to school safety.”

“Codes of conduct are reviewed and improved in light of evidence gathered and/or relevant research, and are revisited as part of a regular cycle of policy review.”

The Code of Conduct will be reviewed yearly by the PAC and the school staff in order to monitor its efficacy.

We will continue to monitor student behaviour using a variety of methods such as performance standards, anecdotal data, counselling and office referrals. Student and parent satisfaction surveys are another source of information.

## **4. Alignment**

“Codes of Conduct are compatible between schools in the community and across elementary, middle and secondary levels.”

The Code of Conduct is aligned with District policies, administrative procedures, and the B.C. Human Rights Code.

Our Code of Conduct will be shared among the elementary schools in our community, the middle school, and the high school to ensure compatibility and consistency.

## 5. Standards

The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to establish, clarify and maintain expectations for student behaviour in a safe, caring, and orderly environment. Ongoing conversations with students and direct teaching of behaviours supports the successful implementation of this Code of Conduct.

### Acceptable conduct is demonstrated by:

- Respecting oneself, others and the school facility
- Behaving in a safe and responsible manner at all times
- Solving problems peacefully
- Valuing and respecting diversity
- Including others and being kind
- Using technology in an appropriate, safe and respectful manner both at school and at home
- Displaying good sportsmanship

### Unacceptable conduct is demonstrated by:

- Behaviour that has a negative impact on the learning environment
- Behaviour that is unsafe
- Behaviour that creates a disorderly environment
- Theft of, or damage to property
- Vandalism
- Physical violence
- Behaviour such as name calling, bullying, harassment, intimidation, being a bystander on and off the property (See School District Policy # 17)
- Behaviour that discriminate against others on the basis of race, religion, sex or sexual orientation, or disability, as set out in the Section 8 of the Human Rights Code of British Columbia:

*8 (1)A person must not, without a bona fide and reasonable justification...*

*(b)discriminate against a person or class of persons regarding any accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public because of the Indigenous identity, race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age of that person or class of persons.*

### Rising Expectations

As students advance through the grades, they will be expected to continue to meet expectations as outlined in the Personal and Social Core Competency realm for the appropriate grade level. The expectations placed upon them will increase as they become developmentally more responsible for their actions. Older students will be expected to conduct themselves in a way that models all aspects of the Code of Conduct for younger students.

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

## Consequences

Responses to unacceptable conduct are prompt, fair, consistent and appropriate to the incident. Disciplinary action, wherever possible, is **preventative** and **restorative**. The purpose is to

## Notification

The classroom teacher is the primary source of communication with families around incidents and will inform the parents/guardians of the students involved when warranted. This may include the offender, victim or bystander depending on the situation. When the behaviour is severe or ongoing, the Principal will be the one to contact families.

- If the behavior continues or is patterned, then supervision of student may increase. In the case of moderate or severe behaviour, a School Based Team Meeting with parents will be coordinated.
- We may also refer the behaviour issue to the district team to find solutions to support the child (services, supervision, limits, and adaptations).
- If students violate the district or school Code of Conduct, then due process will be followed according to district mandates. This would include situations involving weapons, harassment, and violence. Students may be suspended from attending school for up to five days on an informal suspension.
- All parents/guardians will be notified when it is 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 actions to address it.
- A search by school officials of a student under their authority or a search of student property may be undertaken if the school has reasonable grounds to believe a school rule has been or will be violated, and that the evidence of that violation will be found in the location or on the person of the student being searched. Students know that their teachers and other school authorities are responsible for providing a safe learning environment and maintaining order and discipline at school. As a result, they must know that, where reasonable grounds exist, this may require searches of students, their desks and their personal effects and the seizure of prohibited items.
- Students should also be aware that the schools may collect, use and disclose personal information about students for the purposes of investigating and addressing student misconduct, safety and maintaining order and discipline in school. Such collection and use of student information may include information that is obtained from witnesses or collected from other secondary information sources (e.g. social media). All personal information of students collected by the school will be collected in compliance with and under the authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (ss. 26(a), (b), and(c)) and the School Act. Questions about the collection, use or disclosure of student personal information should be directed to Assistant Superintendent Stephen Whiffin, at [swhiffin@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:swhiffin@sd43.bc.ca).