

# STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

## *TUMBLER RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL*

### **Statement of Purpose**

Tumbler Ridge students will not discriminate against others 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, and age, or for any other reason set out in the Human Rights Code of British Columbia.

Neither will a student make gestures, publish, or display anything that would indicate an intention to discriminate against an individual or group, or expose them to contempt or ridicule 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, and age, or for any other reason set out in the Human Rights Code of British Columbia.

Our Staff is dedicated to helping students become responsible and respectful citizens who solve conflicts in appropriate ways.

Our goals are to:

- ✓ establish and maintain safe, caring and orderly environments for purposeful learning activity;
- ✓ establish and maintain appropriate balances among individual and collective rights, freedoms and responsibilities;
- ✓ clarify and publish expectations for student behaviour while at school, at a school-related activity or in other circumstances;
- ✓ engage in activities that will have a positive impact on the school environment.

### **Student Rights**

Students of the school have rights and responsibilities.

Their rights are:

1. a good education
2. to be treated with respect
3. a clean and safe environment free from discrimination
4. privacy and personal space

## **Expectations**

The students, staff and parents of Tumbler Ridge Elementary School will model the following acceptable codes of conduct while going to and from school and while attending any school function at any location:

### **BE SAFE:**

- by following rules and routines;
- by treating people the way you want to be treated;
- by being, fair, open-minded, and sincere;
- by reporting bullying immediately to an adult.

### **BE KIND:**

- by being polite and using kind words;
- by helping others;
- by listening carefully;
- by working together;
- by setting a good example for others.

### **BE RESPECTFUL:**

- by using good manners;
- by listening to others;
- by treating others with consideration and courtesy;
- by taking care of school materials so that others may benefit;
- by allowing and thinking of others' point of view;
- by taking care of our belongings and the belongings of others.

### **BE RESPONSIBLE:**

- by doing what we know is right;
- by doing quality schoolwork and completing our homework;
- by working and playing without direction supervision;
- by trusting others and being trustworthy to others;
- by knowing the difference between conflict, mean behaviour, and bullying.

**Conflicts** are generally a disagreement or a difference of opinion or interests between peers who typically have *equal* or *close to equal* power in their relationships.

## **Unacceptable Conduct**

The following is a list of examples of unacceptable behaviours; it is not all-inclusive:

- ✓ behaviours that interfere with the learning of others, interfere with an orderly environment, create unsafe conditions;
- ✓ bullying, or threatening others, verbally or physically are serious offences and will be treated as such.

Bullying is defined by the *recurring* attempts to threaten, frighten, tyrannize, or intimidate another, including acts of aggression that are real or implied, verbal or non-verbal aggression, and/or social alienation where one individual attempts to exert their will or control over another person. This includes *on-line or Cyber-bullying*. Bullying differs greatly from conflict as a confirmed incident of bullying will contain one or more of these specific elements:

- an imbalance of power
- intention to harm, feelings of distress on the part of the victim
- repeated incidents over a certain time period

✓ illegal acts, such as possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances; possession of weapons; theft or damage to property

## Changing Expectations

As students mature, expectations for their behaviour will change. There will be:

- ✓ increasing personal responsibility and self-discipline;
- ✓ increasing consequences for inappropriate conduct/unacceptable behaviour.

There may be times when special considerations may apply to students with special needs who are unable to comply with expectations due to having a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature.

## Major Offenses

Major offences may include such things as:

- ✓ use of alcohol or illegal drugs;
- ✓ possession of a weapon;
- ✓ gross disrespect to staff or other students;
- ✓ physical violence or dangerous behaviour;
- ✓ bullying as described previously;
- ✓ harassment: behaviour which is to continuously trouble, torment, gesture, or speak inappropriately toward another individual in a manner that causes discomfort to the individual;
- ✓ violent behaviour directed toward another individual(s) or property.

Parents are advised that in all cases where a student receives a suspension for use or possession of a controlled substance, the RCMP will be informed. In addition where a student is suspended for a weapon, the police will also receive notice. Incidences of violence, where a student is suspended, the RCMP may also receive notice.

## Consequences

The students can expect disciplinary actions that may include:

- problem solving with the child using the restorative model;
- removal from the area (classroom, gym, playground, etc.);
- restricted access to facilities/activities such as sitting or standing in a designated area;
- self-reflective exercises or research project in related topic;
- detentions;
- referral to the principal;

- a phone call home by the teacher, supervisor, or principal;
- family group conference/restorative justice circle;
- a letter outlining an incident may be sent home;
- an in-school suspension;
- an out of school suspension from 1 to 10 days in length;
- reduced day length (permanent or temporary);
- payment for damaged or stolen property.

The starting point on this list will vary by degree of severity of the behaviour, number of occurrences, and the students' disciplinary history at the school.

When a student is having difficulty behaving in an acceptable way, parents will be notified so that they can encourage the child to make better choices about his or her behaviour. If a student repeatedly behaves inappropriately, the principal, teacher, and parents will jointly work on a plan of action to deal with the situation.

- ✓ responses to unacceptable conduct will be consistent and fair;
- ✓ disciplinary action, wherever possible, is preventative and restorative, rather than punitive;
- ✓ students, as often as possible, are encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences for violations of the established code of conduct.

Disciplinary decisions may be appealed to the principal and subsequently to the School District. However, by working together to ensure that students are successful at school, parents and staff can help students make positive choices about their actions and solve conflicts in suitable ways.

The school and the board will take all reasonable steps to prevent retaliation against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of the conduct.

## **EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS**

School personnel can only play a part of the role in helping children to develop safe and responsible work and play habits. There are many things that parents need to do in order to ensure that children are receiving a consistent message about what we all expect of them.

### **Please read, understand and explain this Code of Conduct to your child.**

1. Many students tend to get into unsafe playing situations when they have to wait outside for long periods of time. Supervision does not begin until 8:30 in the morning. Please do not have students arrive before this time.
2. If your child rides a bike or scooter, please ensure that your child walks his/her bike or scooter onto school property. Bikes and scooters are to be placed in the bike racks provided. There are to be no skateboards or roller blades at any time, at the school.

3. When students are not properly dressed for the weather, they tend to create discipline problems because they do not want to be outside. Please ensure that students wear clothing appropriate for outdoor play, as students will be outside most days.
4. Often when toys are brought to school, they are the source of jealousy, conflict and tears. Unless the child is bringing an item for presentation during sharing time, it is advisable to keep such items at home.
5. Electronic hand held video games and cell phones are not permitted in the school or on the playground. If your child(ren) have a phone for the purpose of checking in with you, it must be given to their teacher.
6. Please notify the school when your child is going to be absent or late: (250) 242-5281
7. In an effort to follow the Healthy Schools' Guide, we ask that you do not send high-sugar items such as pop or candy, in your child(ren)'s lunch.
8. The appearance of any young person is primarily the responsibility of the child and his/her parents. This appearance should not be distracting or offensive to teachers or other students. Nor should it be detrimental to the educational atmosphere of the school. When a student's appearance is felt to be negatively distracting, he or she will be asked to get changed or to cover up. A parent meeting with administration may be requested. Staff in conjunction with parents, has agreed that the school will maintain the following dress code.

Students are **not** to wear attire that:

- ✓ advertises drugs or alcohol
- ✓ displays offensive, inappropriate, or explicit pictures or language
- ✓ is too revealing such as: short shorts, or short shirts
- ✓ expresses vulgar language, racist or sexist comments
- ✓ is sleepwear (pajama bottoms), unless it is part of spirit week
- ✓ covers their heads unless it is for religious reasons, this includes hats, and hoodies