

Big White Community School

Code of Conduct 2024-25

Statement of Purpose:

At Big White Community School, we strive to promote a climate of understanding and mutual respect where all students are equal in dignity and rights and are free from discrimination. Our goal is to be a school where students are free from harm, where clear expectations of acceptable behavior are held and met, and where all students feel they belong. In accordance with the **BC Human Rights Code**, discrimination on any of the following grounds is prohibited:

- Race
- Colour
- Ancestry
- Place of origin
- Religion
- Marital status
- Family status
- Physical or mental disability
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Gender identity or expression
- Age

Acceptable Behaviour:

1. The students, staff and parents of Big White Community School, are committed to promoting a safe learning environment that respects the rights of all individuals, values diversity and are free from discrimination, including race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, gender identity or expression, sex, sexual orientation, or age. This Code of Conduct encourages trauma informed prevention, peaceful problem solving and a safe and welcoming environment.

Behavioural expectations can be broken down further with these three basic principles:

- **Respect yourself**
 - Self-respect is an admiration for yourself in terms of what you are capable of, who you are, and what you can achieve.
- **Respect others**
 - Respecting someone is honoring their dignity and treating them like a human being.
 - Respect means that you accept somebody for who they are, even when they are different from you or you do not agree with them.
- **Respect this space**
 - You show respect for school and other people's property by taking good care of it.

When students struggle to meet these expectations, staff will help guide them, encouraging positive behaviour and change.

Behaviour Expectations at Big White Community School cont...

Children contribute to the classroom and community by:

- Being caring, considerate and helpful; and
- Participating positively in and demonstrating commitment to classroom and group activities.

Children demonstrate that they value diversity by:

- Treating others fairly and respectfully; and
- Showing support for others.

Children learn to appreciate the relationship between rights and responsibilities by:

- Following classroom and school expectations;
- Understanding that they have a right to a safe, secure and orderly learning environment; and
- Taking responsibility for their own actions.
- Understanding and demonstrating safe and appropriate uses of internet resources.

Children solve problems in peaceful ways.

Consequences for Unacceptable Behaviour

At Big White Community School, when students do not demonstrate age-appropriate social responsibility, these times are viewed as learning opportunities. Unacceptable behaviour includes, but is not limited to bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, intimidation, threatening or violent behaviours or retribution against a person who has reported incidents.

We recognize that 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.

As students become older, more mature, and move through successive grades, we expect increasing personal responsibility and self-discipline. Consequently, there will also be increasing consequences for inappropriate behaviour.

When determining appropriate disciplinary action, there are a number of factors that will be taken into account, including the severity of the incident, frequency, and the age and maturity of the student. Students (and when appropriate families), as often as possible, are encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences for violations of our code of conduct. It is our goal to be restorative, rather than punitive in our disciplinary consequences.

Teachers are expected to deal with students who breach the code of conduct in a fair and consistent manner within their classroom before referring a student to the principal. Parents will be made aware of any unacceptable or inappropriate behavior. If the situation is not effectively resolved within the classroom and the inappropriate behaviour continues, the student will be referred to the principal.

Fair warning:

School administration has a responsibility to advise other parties of serious breaches in the code of conduct. These parties may include:

- Parents of the student offender – in every instance
- Parents of the victim – in every instance
- School district officials – as required by district policy
- Police and other agencies – as required by law

Cell Phone Policy:

Effective September 1st, 2024, students will be expected to adhere to the following minimum restrictions on the use of personal digital devices:

Elementary: No access to or use of personal devices at any time during the school day.

This is essentially a restriction from the moment the student arrives on school grounds until they leave school grounds at the end of the day. Parents are reminded that elementary students are always under direct supervision, and that the school will communicate with home for any emergent need that arises.

Secondary: Access to and the use of personal digital devices at the secondary level will not be permitted during instructional time. At the teacher's discretion, an exemption may be made when the use of such devices supports a specific curricular objective and is part of instructional planning. Secondary schools will follow up with further information for their school communities.

Security & Storage:

It is important to note that security and storage of personal digital devices is the sole responsibility of the owner/user. The district assumes no responsibility for the safety, security, loss, repair or replacement of such devices. If students must bring a device to school, they are encouraged to ensure they are locked away in lockers (if available) or kept in a secure location.

We encourage students and parents to inform us of any safety concerns.

**Our code of conduct is reviewed and updated annually with staff, students, and parents and is posted on the parent board in our school entry as well as on our school website.*