

## **SMS Code of Conduct**

In this context, respect is central to our beliefs about what our school should look and feel like. We expect all students and staff to be respectful towards each other at all times in the school community. We also expect members of our community to be respectful towards the school building, including all of the furniture and equipment found here.

Responsible behavior and attitudes towards school are essential to our ideal school climate. Students should be responsible in all aspects of their school life and try to make good choices that will contribute positively to their school community.

As a school, we are responsible for the safety of everyone in our school community, and we believe that every student has the right to feel safe in their learning environment. At Skeena Middle School, we all share the responsibility for the physical, emotional, and psychological safety of the students and adults in our school.

At Skeena Middle School, we recognize and value diversity in our community. In support of this, we will not tolerate discrimination, violence, bullying, harassment, or intimidation. We recognize that diversity includes students and other school community members identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, intersex, queer, or questioning. Any discrimination directed towards these and other members of our community based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and/or age will not be tolerated.

## **Statement of Purpose**



The purpose of the Skeena Middle School Code of Conduct is to help students understand and demonstrate appropriate behaviour. Appropriate behaviour is defined as behaviour that is safe, respectful, responsible, and legal. It contributes to a positive school climate in which everyone feels a sense of respect, safety, and

belonging. The Skeena Middle School Code of Conduct provides guidelines for showing respect for the dignity of others, their rights, and property. It also provides a framework with consequences to help students understand the results of their actions as members of the school community.

**The Skeena Middle School Code of Conduct applies to every student whether he or she is on school property, going to and from school, on field trips, or at any school-sponsored event (during or outside school hours). The Code of Conduct also includes student behavior off school grounds or on school buses in the community if it adversely affects students, staff, or the operation of our school or other schools**

### **Acceptable Conduct**

The following list gives a number of examples of how students, parents, staff, and community members are expected to conduct themselves at school throughout the day, while in the school building, on school grounds, attending a school function, on a school field trip, or when engaging in other conduct that impacts the safe, caring, or orderly nature of our school. This list is meant to provide examples of acceptable behavior and is by no means a complete list.

- Be respectful of yourself, others and the school.
- Help to make the school a safe, caring, and orderly place.
- Arrive on time and attend school regularly.
- Bring all necessary materials to each class.
- Be attentive in class.
- Work independently and cooperatively.
- Give your best effort to everything you do.
- Hand in work on time.
- Contribute positively to the school environment and our community.
- Show respect for our community, our neighbours, and the plants and wildlife in our area.
- Be responsible for your own learning.
- Solve conflicts using peaceful strategies.
- Inform an adult in a timely manner of incidents of bullying, harassment, or intimidation.
- Remove hats and dirty shoes at the outside door and put away cell phones.
- Wear clothing appropriate for a school environment.
- Respond to directions given by a staff member respectfully and without arguing.
- Students may be in the gym only when supervised by an adult.
- Stay away from parking areas, except when leaving or entering the school.
- Use crosswalks and traffic lights when crossing roads.

### **Unacceptable Conduct**

The following list provides a number of examples of unacceptable behaviours; by no means is this list complete.

- Any behavior or actions involving drugs or alcohol
- Wearing clothing or items with words, slogans, pictures, images, or symbols that are offensive or that promote alcohol, drugs, tobacco products, violence or sexism
- Physical or verbal aggression against another person (such as: fighting, spitting, stealing, bullying, lying, cheating, kicking, play fighting/rough

play; inappropriate gestures, verbal abuse including swearing, name calling and threats, discrimination whether in person or on-line; intent to harm others, throwing snowballs, sticks, stones, etc.)

- Inappropriate use of technology – including but not limited to accessing inappropriate material, photography/videography, inappropriate use of social media
- People being harmed, threatened or harassed- physically, verbally or emotionally
- Taking, defacing or destroying the personal property of another person or school property
- Disturbing others who are working by making excessive noise
- Wearing hats inside the building (unless otherwise directed or on special occasions i.e. "Hat Day")
- Racial, religious or sexual harassment remarks
- Retribution against a person who has reported incidents
- Behaviours that create unsafe conditions
- Acts such as bullying, harassment, or intimidation.
- Behaviour that intimidates or exposes students or staff to physical harm, ridicule, hatred, or contempt, whether it occurs at school or off school grounds, is unacceptable



### **Consequences**

If a student has difficulty recognizing his or her responsibilities in relation to the expectations we have set out, an adult in charge will intervene and respond with an appropriate consequence. These may include:

- Restriction of privileges and activities
- Lunch or after school detention
- Temporary removal from the group
- Parent-student conference with school personnel
- Replacement/repair of damaged property
- Removal from class
- Community service at the school
- Problem solving discussion
- Restitution
- Parent contact
- Referral to or meeting with our school counsellor
- Suspension – in-school or out-of-school

### **Rising Expectations**



While we firmly believe in a consistent approach when dealing with students, it is understood that consequences for inappropriate decisions or choices will take into account a students' age, maturity, and individual needs.



