

School District 50: Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte

Policy Subject: CODE OF CONDUCT BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

Date Passed: October 1999

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Policy No. 1240

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POLICY

The Board of Education of School District No. 50 (Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte) is committed to providing safe, caring and orderly environments for learning. To this end each school is expected to have a Code of Conduct for students that shall be developed and reviewed regularly with the involvement of students, parents and staff.

PROCEDURE

The school Code of Conduct provides a framework for the development of school wide expectations and is reflective of the norms and values of the school community. Each school shall, therefore, set standards of acceptable student behaviour, communicate these standards to students, parents and staff on an ongoing basis and enforce these within existing Board policies and regulations.

Responses to unacceptable behaviour are based on sound principles, are appropriate to the context, reflect proactive and preventative measures and are often restorative in nature. Expectations regarding acceptable conduct are made known to all students, parents and school staff, as well as to temporary staff or visitors.

Expectations and consequences are consistently taught and reinforced throughout the school.

In order to provide the best possible education for all students in School District No.

50, all participants in the educational system are expected to be responsible citizens, demonstrating their understanding of the relationship between their rights and responsibilities.

Rights

As a participant you have the right:

- a) to the best education system possible;
- b) to be in an environment that is mutually respectful;
- c) to be in an environment that is safe and secure;
- d) to participate in the decision-making process, where appropriate;
- e) to participate in school activities, where appropriate;
- f) to appeal decisions made by school district personnel.

Responsibilities

As a participant you have the responsibility:

- a) of knowing the school rules and abiding by them;
- b) of behaving in a way which is neither harmful to the welfare of other students nor interferes with the learning of others;
- c) to do your best to work to support education in School District No. 50;
- d) to treat others with respect and dignity;
- e) to act in an appropriate and responsible manner towards others and their property;
- f) to be aware of those activities available for participation.
- g) to be familiar with your rights and to be aware of the appeal process of School District No. 50.

Code of Conduct documents shall contain the following elements:

1. Purpose/Content - a description that provides a rationale for the behaviour expectations. Each student shall be accorded certain minimal due process procedures before being disciplined for acts of misconduct committed at school or during school related activities. Simply stated, those procedures include: to be told what the rules are; to be told what rule has been violated; and to be given the opportunity to present his/her version of the facts. The right of procedural due

process also includes the right to receive a punishment which fits the wrong done by the student and the right to appeal, under School District No. 50 (Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte) Appeal Procedure Bylaw.

2. Conduct Expectations

a) Appropriate conduct - a description that conveys clearly how students are expected to conduct themselves at school, while going to and from school, and while attending any school function at any location.

b) Inappropriate conduct - statements that convey clearly what is considered to be inappropriate conduct. These include:

- behaviours that interfere with the learning of others
- behaviours that interfere with an orderly environment
- behaviours that create unsafe conditions
- acts of bullying, harassment or intimidation (see Policy 1250)
- acts of physical violence
- acts of retribution against a person who has reported incidents
- possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances
- possession or use of weapons
- theft of or damage to property

c) Every teacher shall establish reasonable and clearly understood limits to the behaviour of his/her students. Such limits shall be kind, consistent and judicious disciplinary practices and should ensure a safe and secure learning environment for all students.

d) one or more statements that address the prohibited grounds of discrimination set out in the BC Human Rights Code in respect of discriminatory publication and discrimination in accommodation, service and facility in the school environment;

3. Potential Consequences - an explanation of the levels of behaviours and consequences. School based rules of conduct should not provide for mandatory suspensions. They should allow the principal some discretion to consider the

circumstances of the offence. The hallmark of administrative authority will be fairness; every effort will be made to resolve problems utilizing district resources in co-operation with the students, parents or guardian. Suspensions should be reserved for cases of direct disobedience or abuse or threats of a serious nature. In dealing with student behaviour of a nature serious enough to warrant suspension, principals will be guided by the policy and procedure outlined in Policy 4300 Student Discipline - Suspensions.

4. Communication - processes for involving parent(s)/guardian(s) are described. The Principal shall involve members of the School community (students, staff and parents) in the formulation of school rules with respect to student behaviour which are consistent with Board policy. All rules under which suspensions might be made should include rules regarding provision of educational programs to suspended students. The Principal shall then be responsible to communicate on a regular basis, the rules to students, parents and staff and outline disciplinary procedures within his/her school.

5. Review Process - School Codes of Conduct will be reviewed by a District Code of Conduct committee.