

# HANDBOOK / CODE OF CONDUCT

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

- to establish and maintain a safe, secure environment in which learning can take place
- to help students develop a sense of self-discipline

## CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS:

### Acceptable Conduct

- safe, kind and respectful behaviour
- respecting self, others and the school
- engaging in purposeful learning activities which contribute to making the school a safe, caring and orderly place

**Unacceptable conduct** in Northridge includes the following, but not limited to:

- behaviour that interferes with the learning of other.
- behaviour that interferes with an orderly environment.
- behaviour that creates unsafe conditions.
- behaviour that discriminates against: race, color, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation and age.

## CONSEQUENCES:

- Parents and guardians should be the first and foremost providers of discipline for their child's behaviour and should be active in implementing modifications that may be required when problem behaviour presents itself.
- Whenever possible and appropriate, consequences will be restorative rather than punitive.
- Inappropriate behaviours that have been identified by the school staff and students will be dealt with on a case by case basis in a fair, timely and caring manner, ensuring student safety is priority. In assigning consequences, age, grade and historical data are among factors to be considered including issues concerning the individual student. Expectations will progress as children grow older, mature and move through successive grades.
- All reasonable steps will be taken to prevent retaliation against a child who has reported a breach of the code of conduct.

The following consequences may be given to the student, depending on the seriousness of the behaviour. This is not an exhaustive list, more than one of these consequences may be combined:

- student self-reflection; is asked to come to terms with his/her inappropriate behaviour.
- student, through a discussion process is asked to detail appropriate alternate courses of action (such as WITS).
- implement a restitution process.

- communication with parents/guardians and school staff.
- recess and lunch break detentions.
- written action plan/behavioural contract.
- in-school suspension.
- suspension from school.
- access to school district and government support mechanisms.

## **NOTIFICATION:**

We have the responsibility to advise other parties of serious breaches of the Code of Conduct

- parents of the student offender
- parents of the student victim
- school district officials – as required by school district policy
- police and/or other agencies – as required by law
- all parents/guardians – when it is deemed important to reassure the school community that school officials are aware of the seriousness of the situation or incident and are taking appropriate action to address it.

Northridge School has developed a code of conduct that reflects the provincial standards. Staff and parents were involved in developing the document.

The Northridge School Code of Conduct is comprised of the following four elements

- Statement of Purpose
- Conduct of Expectations
- Consequences
- Notification

We also have the WITS program in place at the school.

Evidence to support the impact of these programs are as follows. There are fewer incidents recorded in our daily behaviour book. The numbers of students sent to the office has decreased dramatically. Playground play has improved with a sense of cooperation and consideration.