

## MISSION STATEMENT

To foster the individual growth and development of students to their fullest potential and to help students become respectful, effective, just and wise citizens of our society.

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## CODE OF CONDUCT

### Statement of Purpose

At Don Ross Secondary, we view the pursuit of appropriate conduct as the shared activity of students, parents, staff members and the community. The primary objective of the Code of Conduct is to enable both staff and students to meet their needs in a way that not only works for them, but also respects the needs of others and addresses prohibited grounds of discrimination as set out in the B.C. Human Rights Code.

### Conduct Expectations

The Code of Conduct outlines general expectations for behaviour. The following list describes some negative behaviours. **Any breach of the Code of Conduct will result in disciplinary action as per school and Board policy.** Students may be disciplined for violations which may occur going to and from school, off school property, such as, on school buses, field trips, during evenings and weekends, or any circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the school environment, such as cyber-bullying.

1. Abuse: physical, verbal, or psychological, including; fighting, bullying, harassing, threatening, intimidating, extorting, or showing intolerance on the basis of an individual's or a group's race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, sex, or sexual orientation, dress, or other perceived differences. This includes whether or not the abuse occurs in person, via telephone, cell phone, the internet, or any other wireless communication.
2. Defiance of authority: use of profanity, confrontational behaviour, or lying when dealing with staff members.
3. Plagiarism: engaging or assisting in any form of cheating on tests, assignments, or projects.
4. The publication, issuance, or display of any statement, publication, notice, sign, symbol, emblem or other representation that indicates discrimination or an intention to discriminate against a person or group or class of persons to hatred or contempt because of any of the grounds listed above. This includes the following examples: graffiti, student publications, notebooks, cyber-bullying, blogs, websites, texting or other communication methods.
5. Theft.
6. Possession of weapons, including any object meant to simulate the appearance of a weapon. Firecrackers or other fireworks are included.
7. Possession, use of, or under the influence of prohibited drugs, (including alcohol and tobacco), in and/or on school property.
8. Truancy or excessive tardiness.
9. Vandalism: includes any willful damage to personal, school, or private property as well as, info technology systems.
10. Disruption of classroom learning or official school functions.
11. Intrusion into other schools: visiting during the school day without permission, disrupting the learning environment and/or the safety of others.
12. Reckless operation of vehicles - including bicycles, rollerblades, skateboards, and cars - on school property.
13. Dress which is deemed inappropriate because it detracts from the learning environment.

**Acceptable conduct** includes:

1. treating and respecting self, others, the school, and the environment, with dignity and consideration regardless of differences.
2. acting in a positive, honest and straightforward manner.
3. promoting well being in our school and school community.
4. putting our personal best effort into our work and all other school activities.
5. striving for excellence in all school endeavours.
6. following classroom, school, district rules **and....**

**BEING ON TIME,  
READY, WILLING,  
and PREPARED TO LEARN.**

**Unacceptable conduct** includes:

Behaviors that seriously interfere with the learning environment and/or safety of others such as the following examples:

- Fighting
- Use or possession of drugs/alcohol
- Continual or serious harassment
- Direct defiance to staff members
- Vandalism
- Possession or use of weapons/facsimile weapons

**Consequences** are restorative in nature rather than punitive and may include one or more of the following taking into account students' age, maturity, and special needs.

1. Warnings
2. Time-outs
3. Parent Conference
4. Restricted privileges
5. Payment, Community hours
6. Restorative Justice
7. RCMP notification
8. Suspension
9. Expulsion

**Notification/Advisement of other parties:**

School officials have a responsibility to advise other parties of serious breaches in codes of conduct. Individuals and/or agencies that may need to be informed include: a student's parents, the parents of other students who were involved, school district officials, the police or other agencies, where the law requires, or the parents of all students in the school, when the school community needs to be reassured that a serious situation is being addressed.

**Retaliation Prevention**

Don Ross Secondary will take all reasonable steps to prevent retaliation against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of a code of conduct. Students and parents are encouraged to inform school authorities of safety concerns. At all times, we strive to maintain confidentiality for students and parents.

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