



Gordon Head Middle School

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GHMS Code of Conduct 2023-2024

Statement of Purpose:

A safe, caring and orderly school is the foundation for a successful learning environment. This Code of Conduct supports socially responsible behaviour and allows members of the school community to be fully informed of Gordon Head Middle School's common expectations for student behaviour.

Acceptable Behaviour:

(from BC Core Competencies-Social Responsibilities)

Students who demonstrate social responsibility are active, caring, and responsible members of society. They collaborate effectively with others, demonstrate a strong sense of community-mindedness, and take actions to support diversity and the environment. They show respect for everyone's rights, school property and the environment, and demonstrate empathy and a sense of ethical care as they develop relationships and consider differing perspectives.

- *Contributing to the classroom and school community;*
- *Solving problems in peaceful ways;*
- *Valuing diversity and defending human rights; and*
- *Exercising democratic rights and responsibilities.*

All members of the school community are expected to exhibit acceptable behaviour while at school, at a school-related activity, or in other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the school environment.

Human Rights Code:

In B.C., you are protected under the Human Rights Code (RSBS 1996, c 210), if it is due to a personal characteristic covered by the Code. The protected characteristics are listed below.

In B.C., it is against the law to discriminate against or harass a person because of their:

- *Race, colour, ancestry, place of origin;*
- *Religion;*
- *Marital status;*
- *Family status;*
- *Physical or mental disability;*
- *Sex (includes being a man, woman, inter-sexed or transgender. It also includes pregnancy, breastfeeding, and sexual harassment);*
- *Sexual orientation (includes being heterosexual, gay, lesbian or bisexual); and*
- *Age*

Cell Phones

Cell phones are valuable and important communicative devices in today's world. However, use of cell phones during the instructional day seriously impedes and distracts from the learning process. Research shows a significant correlation between excessive use of cell phones and poor mental health. As a school, we believe that taking a break from cell phone use during the day will help improve mental health and allow students to focus on their school day. We understand students often need to use cell phones on route to and from school, for safety reasons, to communicate with their families. With this in mind, we know many students will arrive with cell phones.

Notes and responsibilities:

- **Students** are to turn off cell phones (not on vibrate) and keep them out of sight during the instructional day from the time they arrive on school grounds until they leave school grounds at the end of the school day.
- **Students** may have the opportunity to have their cell phones stored in their class storage system (pocket chart, basket, wooden box etc.).
- **Student** cell phones will remain off the entire day until after the end of day bell. Phoning parents will be done at the office, if parents need to reach their child they are to call the office to relay a message. Students will use other tools for their learning needs such as calculators, Chromebooks, etc.
- **Teachers** will review the cell phone policy and consequences for cell phone policy violation with all their students at the beginning of the year.
- **All staff and students** will consistently implement this policy in order to ensure the learning process is not impacted or disrupted by cell phone use.

Misuse of personal electronic devices may result in the device being placed in "cell phone daycare" for the school day. If this occurs multiple times, parents will need to come to school to collect the cell phone. The school will not be responsible or liable for lost, stolen or missing electronic devices.

Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco, E-Cigarettes, Vaporizers

Individuals have the right to be in a learning environment free of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, E-cigarettes and vaporizers. They have the responsibility not to be in possession of, under the influence of, or involved in providing to others: alcohol, drugs, tobacco, E-cigarettes and vaporizers at any time at school or during any school function. Smoking anything is not permitted in the school building, on the school grounds, in the neighbourhood of the school or at any school function; The Capital Regional District's Clean Air Bylaw allows for a \$50 fine for people who smoke on school grounds (**reference School District #61 Policy 5131.4 Substance Abuse**)

Weapons/Explosives

School District #61 **Policy 5131.3 Prohibition of Weapons** where students who bring weapons/explosives to school are subject to suspension from school. Weapon replicas may also be considered weapons and will be dealt with accordingly. Laser pointers are included in the District Weapons Policy and are prohibited at school.

Intimidation, Harassment and Violence

Every student, regardless of peer group, has the right to feel safe at school. Any acts of harassment, discrimination, intimidation, threats of any type (physical, emotional, verbal or sexual, including bullying, cyberbullying, physical violence, or retribution against a person who has reported an incident) are unacceptable.

Every reasonable step will be taken to prevent retaliation by a person against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of a code of conduct.

(School District #61 Policy 4304 Bullying and Harassment, Policy 4116 Sexual Harassment and Policy 4303 Discrimination)

Interventions and Consequences

Regardless of the nature or location of the misconduct, or the staff member involved, the following is a range of interventions and consequences that will be used at Gordon Head Middle School. The range of responses is not necessarily sequential. This means that the point at which an intervention begins will vary with the severity of the incident, and that not all steps are necessary in all situations:

- On-the-spot conference or redirection;
- Follow-up meeting between the student(s) and staff member(s);
- Contact with parent or guardian;
- Restitution, including a logical remedy for the problem (e.g. paying for damage willfully caused) and supporting anyone who is a victim or who suffers as a result of the student's actions;
- Supportive intervention and/or service to school;
- Additional time for the student with the teacher or office (detention); and
- Referral to counselling, administration, and/or community support services.

Serious or repeated indiscretions are reported directly to the vice-principal or principal.

Administration response may include steps 1–7 above, but response to serious or repeated indiscretions will be consistent with school and district policy. Where students refuse to cooperate with staff directions and school expectations, as repeat offenders or through single incidents, parents will be involved and a suspension may be the result. As well, suspensions will be strongly considered and parents and police will be involved where chargeable offences occur (fighting, threatening, assault, willful damage, possession or use of weapons, theft, tampering with fire alarms, possession or influence of drugs or alcohol). Special consideration may apply to students with special needs.