



## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **Sooke Elementary School**

#### **Home of the Sticklebacks!**

The Code of Conduct is established for the benefit of everyone at Sooke Elementary School. Our goal is to assist students in developing self-discipline and a sense of social responsibility. Students must recognize that any behaviour which interferes with the safety and learning of others is unacceptable.

#### **OUR BELIEFS**

Sooke Elementary School believes that all students have the right to learn in a **safe** and **respectful** environment. The responsibility for teaching appropriate acceptable behaviour is shared between the home and school. Only by working together can we promote positive and responsible student conduct.

#### **A SAFE AND CARING COMMUNITY**

Sooke Elementary School is a safe and caring school. As members of this school community we have a responsibility to act in ways that are free of:

- Bullying, harassment, threat and intimidation;
- Physical violence and/or violence of any form;
- Verbal, physical or sexual abuse;
- Discrimination, especially based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age (**BC Human Rights Code**);
- Theft and vandalism.

Our safe and caring school environment does not tolerate the presence of:

- Intoxicating substances;
- Weapons and explosives, regardless of whether real or replica;
- Intruders or trespassers;
- Tobacco and/or smoking (including e-cigarettes).

#### **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

Every student at Sooke Elementary School has **RIGHTS**. With those rights come **RESPONSIBILITIES**.

- \* I have the **right** to learn.  
It is my **responsibility** to listen to instructions, to work quietly, and to raise my hand if I have a question or concern.
- \* I have the **right** to be safe.  
It is my **responsibility** not to engage in rough play, to threaten, bully or physically harm anyone else.
- \* I have the **right** to hear and be heard.  
It is my **responsibility** not to interrupt others or make unnecessary noise.
- \* I have the **right** to be respected.  
It is my **responsibility** not to tease, bother or upset other people or hurt their feelings.
- \* I have the **right** to privacy and to my own personal space.  
It is my **responsibility** to respect the personal property of others, and to accept their right to privacy.
- \* I have the **right** to a clean, healthy environment.  
It is my **responsibility** to dispose of garbage and keep my work and play area clean.

## ***Restitution and “Making it Right”***

Sooke Elementary School is using the practices of Restitution that our district has been learning. Restitution works to strengthen children and help them choose behavior based on beliefs that we all share. We will be teaching students that everyone makes mistakes and that we are interested in “fixing” or repairing the harm than “apologies, excuses, faulting, blaming or shaming”.

When a restitution approach is not meeting the needs of those involved, the next level of responses to unacceptable behaviour are consistent and fair progressive discipline.

Progressive disciplinary action is preventative and restorative, and not punitive. Students are encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences for violations of conduct expectations where appropriate.

When expectations for behaviour are not followed, consequences will be based on the nature of the unacceptable behaviour and the frequency of its occurrence. Careful consideration of appropriate consequences will occur once the incident has been fully investigated. One or more of the following may occur:

- Official recording of the incident
- Behaviour sheet completed by the student
- Communication with parents (phone call or meeting)
- Restitution to individuals involved
- Verbal or written apology
- Performing a community service at school
- Establishing a personal behaviour contract
- Loss of privileges
- In-school or out of school suspension
- Referral to School Based Team for intervention
- Reimbursement if property loss or damage is involved
- Actions directed by District Policy and regulations

In our efforts to ensure students are safe and comfortable at school, we will maintain open communication with parents regarding incidents involving their children. We appreciate the involvement of our entire school community in reinforcing this social learning.

It is helpful to have you read over the Code of Conduct with your child in order to reinforce our shared expectations. As always, please contact the school if you have questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Mrs. Debra Stoutley