



# Student Code of Conduct

**BE KIND**

**BE SAFE**

**BE RESPECTFUL**

**BE RESPONSIBLE**

## Purpose

At Semá:th Elementary, we want all children to feel safe and secure both physically and emotionally. Through shared responsibility involving home, school and community, we strive to provide a safe, positive and orderly environment where all students can learn and grow as citizens. Our code of conduct takes into account the rights, freedoms and responsibilities of both individuals and the school community and clarifies expectations for acceptable and unacceptable behavior.

## Conduct Expectations

Our code of conduct at Semá:th is designed to teach children to make choices which show that they:

- Care about others, themselves and their school
- Use manners and appropriate social interactions that are polite and respectful
- Dress with dignity as outlined in the dress code
- Display the qualities of a positive leader including being kind, safe, respectful and responsible

It is understood that as students become older, more mature and move through successive grades, expectations of increasing responsibility and self-regulation will be evident. This may lead to increasing consequences for inappropriate behavior. Students are responsible for respecting the rights and dignity of others, free from discrimination as set out in the *BC Human Right's Code*.

## Acceptable Conduct

While going to and from school and while attending any school function, students are expected to:

- Demonstrate with words and actions, respect for self and others
- Be honest, forthright and kind
- Respect the property of others and the school
- Help make the school a safe, caring and orderly place
- Inform an adult of any unsafe behavior including bullying, harassment or intimidation
- Attend regularly and punctually
- Work to the best of their abilities
- Act in a way that brings credit to their family and Semá:th Elementary
- Be aware of and obey all school rules and guidelines

## Unacceptable Conduct

Unacceptable conduct is behavior that:

- Interferes with learning of others
- Interferes with an orderly environment
- Creates unsafe conditions
- Acts of: bullying, harassment or intimidation (including cyber-bullying)
- Physical violence and aggressive play
- Profane, demeaning or offensive language
- Retribution against a person who has reported something to an adult
- Illegal acts, such as: having or sharing an illegal or restricted substance, having or using a weapon, stealing or damaging property

## Consequences

The severity and frequency, age and maturity of the students are taken into consideration when unacceptable conduct occurs.

- Response to unacceptable conduct are consistent and fair
- Disciplinary action, whenever possible, is preventative and restorative, rather than merely punitive
- Students, as often as possible, will participate in the development of meaningful consequences for acts of misconduct and ways to make it right
- Unacceptable conduct may result in suspension from school as governed by the *School Act*

## Communication

School staff have a responsibility to inform other parties of a serious or reoccurring breach of conduct.

For example:

- Parents of student who breaks the rules
- Parents of the student victim
- School district officials as required by board policy
- Police and other agencies as required by law
- All parents in a situation deemed by the principal to be important to reassure members of the school community that school officials are aware of a serious situation and are taking appropriate action to address it