

Marie Sharpe Elementary

Code of Conduct 2024-2025



Purpose of a Code of Conduct

A code of conduct is designed to establish and maintain safe, caring, and orderly learning environments for purposeful learning and student success.

The Code of Conduct and the BC Human Rights Code

- The contents of this Code of Conduct acknowledge that if there is a conflict between this code and the Human Rights Code then the Human Rights Code shall prevail.
- With respect to the Human Rights Code, this School Code of Conduct in no way intends to discriminate against a person or class of persons because of race, color, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation of that person or class of persons.

Acceptable Conduct

At Marie Sharpe Elementary we hold a common belief that students have rights and responsibilities that outline acceptable conduct. These strive to support a safe, caring, and respectful learning environment. Our school is a place where students should feel: a sense of belonging, they have a safe place to learn and grow and have pride in their school.

Accompanying these rights and responsibilities is a set of expectations which provides a framework for school discipline. We believe that to have and maintain a positive school environment, a cooperative effort between parents, staff, students, and the community is imperative.

The responsibilities listed below are to be viewed as the expected behaviours and acceptable conduct for our school community members.

All students have rights and responsibilities. These rights and responsibilities include:

RIGHTS	RESPONSIBILITIES
I have a RIGHT to learn	It is my RESPONSIBILITY to come to school on time, prepared, and ready to learn
I have a RIGHT to hear and be heard	It is my RESPONSIBILITY to listen and not disturb others when someone else is speaking

I have a RIGHT to be respected in the school	It is my RESPONSIBILITY not to bully, tease or bug other people, or to hurt their feelings, or use inappropriate language
I have a RIGHT to be safe in this school	It is my RESPONSIBILITY to participate in activities safely and not threaten, or harm others
I have a RIGHT to privacy and to my own personal space	It is my RESPONSIBILITY to respect the personal space and property of others, and to accept their right to privacy

These conditions apply while students are at school, while travelling to and from school, and while attending any school function at any location.

Unacceptable Conduct

All students are expected to support maintaining a safe, caring and orderly school environment here at Marie Sharpe. Any language or behaviour that inhibits this and/or does not reflect the responsibilities outlined above will be addressed through our discipline process.

Special considerations may apply to students with diverse needs unable to comply with expectations due to a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional, or behavioral nature.

Rising Expectations

As students grow older and move through successive grades at Marie Sharpe Elementary School, their maturity is expected to increase and accordingly be held to a higher standard of personal conduct. As students mature, the consequences of unacceptable behaviour will increase. This is also true in the case of repeated unacceptable behaviour.

Consequences

When working through the discipline process, consideration will be given to a student’s age, maturity, needs, and their previous school record. Special considerations may also apply to students with special needs where appropriate.

We recognize that making mistakes is part of the learning process and are committed to approaching situations with a restorative and trauma-informed lens. However, we still recognize that learning involves recognizing the consequences of one’s actions.

While matters of discipline and consequence are kept confidential, on occasion, school staff may be responsible for advising other parties of serious Code of Conduct breaches (e.g., parents, school district officials, police, and/or other agencies).

Restorative Practices

Restorative Practices are processes that proactively build healthy relationships and a sense of community to prevent and address conflict and wrongdoing. They help guide student behaviour to help create and maintain a positive school environment. Students are asked to reflect on their behaviours, how their behaviours affected others, and are then tasked with remediation work.

Serious Breaches of the Code of Conduct

Suspensions: In accordance with the School Act, Sec. 85(2)(ii) and (d), and SD27 AP 320, the Board authorizes the Principal or designate of any school in the district to suspend a student from attendance at school for up to five days. Suspensions may be for the following reasons:

- a. A student is willfully and repeatedly disrespectful to a teacher or to any other employee of the Board carrying out responsibilities approved by the Board.
- b. The behaviour of the student breaches the District Code of Conduct or policy and/or has a harmful effect on others or the learning environment of the school.
 - For example, (POLICY – 311 ILLICIT SUBSTANCES) Students who are under the influence of, possess, use, gift, provide to other students or sell illicit substances will be the subject of appropriate disciplinary action and their conduct may be reported to the authorities.
- c. The student has failed to comply with the School Code of Conduct.

Suspensions over five days are made in consultation with the appropriate Director of Instruction as per District Policy. Serious breaches of conduct that threaten the safety and welfare of others will be referred directly to an indefinite suspension including a review from a representative of the Superintendent.

Personal Electronic and Digital Devices

At Marie Sharpe, we recognize the importance of learning about and how to use digital devices effectively and appropriately. To promote digital safety and focus our learning environments, the use of personal digital devices will be restricted at school.

Personal digital devices such as cell phones and tablets, although important, are not to be accessed or used during school times. Students who bring these devices to school are required to keep them secured away and on silent mode, while on school property. Students are not permitted to leave the classroom with their devices. Teachers will provide a safe and secure space in their classrooms to store devices during class time.

Students found to have them while at school will have the device confiscated from them for the day. Repeated offences will result in increased disciplinary action, such as being prohibited from having a device at school and possible suspension.

At no point is it acceptable for a student to have a digital device in the washrooms. Special consideration will be given to students who rely on devices for educational communication purposes. In this case, a school device will be provided.

Special consideration will be given to students who require personal digital devices to support specific IEP goals or nursing plans.

Protection Against Retaliation

The school and the Board of Education will take all reasonable steps to ensure no person faces retaliation from another for making a complaint resulting in a breach of the Code of Conduct.

Active Teaching and Promotion of Expectations

The Code of Conduct will be communicated to staff and students via the student handbook supplied at the start of each school year. Teachers are responsible for developing their own Classroom Management Plan. Within this plan, there will be classroom expectations, classroom recognition, and classroom consequences that will be explained to all students at the beginning of the year and that are consistent with and complement the School Code of Conduct. Teachers will actively teach the code of conduct in their classrooms, with the focus being teaching pro-social behaviours to prevent breaches of the code of conduct. The school will teach, encourage, and celebrate positive social and emotional competencies and recognize students striving for personal academic excellence throughout the school year.

Development and Regular Review

The Marie Sharpe Elementary Student Code of Conduct is developed in collaboration with students, staff, and parents, and is reviewed annually with stakeholders.