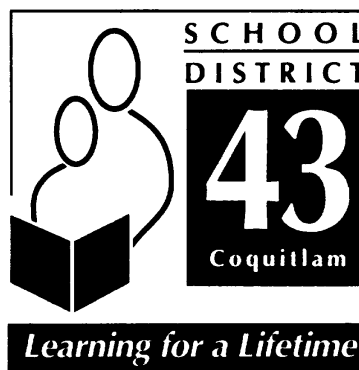


Code of Conduct



Suwa'lkh 2024/2025

At Suwa'lkh, we foster an environment of respect – for ourselves, each other and the space we are in.

To this end we have structures that help guide our conduct.

Suwa'lkh Code of Conduct

I. INTRODUCTION

This Code of Conduct is designed to reflect and clearly communicate what we, as a school community, value and expect in terms of student behaviour.

We believe that safe, caring and orderly schools are developed by committed, thoughtful school communities using appropriate and ever-improving policies, procedures and practices. Suwa'lkh's code of conduct outlines school expectations and acceptable student behaviour, as directed by the School Act 85 (2) (c) and the 2007 Ministerial Order, "Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct".

II. CODE OF CONDUCT: KEY ELEMENTS

Process

The Suwa'lkh School Administrator coordinated a process of gathering input from students, and staff. Students gave input through their core classes. Staff members gave input and made recommendations through staff and pro-d meetings. The school staff and students review the Code of Conduct annually.

1. Communication

The school will take the following steps to communicate expectations to students and the greater school community:

- Our school code of conduct is posted on our school website and, as such, is available to the public: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/suwa'lkh>
- Our school code of conduct is distributed at the beginning of each year to all staff, parents, and students.
- If a student starts at our school mid-year, we review the code of conduct with parent and student at the intake meeting.
- Key elements will be reviewed with students during the opening weeks through class discussions.

2. Implementation

Each student receives direct instruction on our school's code of conduct during the first weeks of school. Parents are asked each September to read and discuss the section on our website so that the code of conduct has been reviewed. This supports there is reinforcement of the code of conduct both at home and school. Additionally, all fieldtrip notices require parents to sign indicating their understanding that students are responsible for adhering to the school's code of conduct while on fieldtrips and outings.

1. Community Circles: Our students meet weekly in a smaller circle groups to discuss and learn a wide range of social communication and problem-solving skills.

2. Use of Restorative Practices as a method to help students deal with solving problems and when participants are willing.
3. Use of consequences for serious conduct concerns (usually in partnership with restorative practices where appropriate).

Monitoring and Review

The Code of Conduct undergoes annual review and revision, ensuring opportunities for all stakeholders to have a voice in assessing the effectiveness of the code of conduct in addressing current school safety issues.

- Classroom meetings and instruction that focus on developing the core competencies. Attention is given to strategies and techniques for students to use when dealing with stress and inappropriate conduct and work issues.
- Community Circles focus on developing student voice.
- The process of monitoring students' behaviour and reviewing school wide expectations is one that involves all staff at care and concern meetings and individual teacher conversations.

Alignment

Suwa'ikh School's Code of Conduct is aligned with our school district Code of Conduct policy (Policy 17)

District Code of Conduct – Policy 17

The Board believes it has a responsibility to establish expectations of students as part of its governance role for the district. The Board further believes that the responsibility for student discipline in school is shared among students, staff and parents. Students have a responsibility to respect the rights and dignity of others and to become actively and productively involved in their own academic learning and social growth. Educators are responsible for establishing a positive school climate in which structure, support and encouragement assist the students in developing a sense of self-discipline and responsibility. Parents are responsible for establishing a positive learning atmosphere in the home, knowing school policies and procedures, supporting the school in the enactment of these policies and procedures, and encouraging their children to understand and respect these policies and procedures. To support these aims, the Board has established a District Code of Conduct for Students, which shall be followed in all schools.

Specifically

The Board believes that appropriate student conduct, based on respect for oneself, respect for others, and respect for property is essential to the development of responsible citizens. To this end students are expected to:

- respect themselves, others and the school;
 - Engage in purposeful learning activities in a timely manner
- help make the school a safe, orderly and caring place
- work cooperatively and diligently at their studies
- respect the rights of all persons within the school including peers, staff and parents;
- respect the legitimate authority of the school staff;
- respect the school's physical school facilities;

- discriminate against a person or class of persons regarding any accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public because of the Indigenous identity, race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age of that person or class of persons., or for any other reason set out in the Human Rights Code of British Columbia (Section 7 and 8), nor shall a student publish or display anything that would indicate an intention to discriminate against another, or expose them to contempt or ridicule, on the basis of any such ground
- not threaten, harass, bully, intimidate or assault, in any way, any person within the school community
- possession, use, distribution of electronic cigarettes, vaporizers, marijuana, and other drugs including alcohol under the "banned substances" section

Suwa'ikh School Code of Conduct is also supported by Policy 18 (Violence, Intimidation, and Possession of Weapons),

Violence, Intimidation and Possession of Weapons - Policy 18

The Board believes that schools are purposeful places where students and staff must be able to work, learn and play without the threat of physical or psychological harm. Schools are characterized by sensitivity and respect for all individuals, an environment of non-violence, clear student behavioral expectations and disciplinary practices that are enforced consistently and fairly. The Board acknowledges its role in providing secure learning environments which are safe from threats, violence or intimidation.

Administrative Procedure 355 (Suspension of Students), Suspension of Students – AP 355

Effective management of student discipline is a necessity in establishing safe, caring and orderly school environments that foster student learning needs. When student misconduct occurs, the school and district must respond fairly, quickly, and effectively, imposing a disciplinary consequence that is appropriate to the circumstances and that reinforces for the student involved and students generally, appropriate standards of student behavior.

The Principal has overall responsibility for the maintenance of student discipline and school rules. Under the general supervision of the Superintendent and subject to administrative procedures, a Principal and/or Vice Principal has the authority to suspend or remove a suspension imposed on a student.

Section 85 of the School Act, Policy 13 (Appeals Regarding Student Matters)

Resolution of Student or Parent School Concerns – AP 380

The district encourages students and/or parents to discuss their questions or concerns regarding the education of their children with school personnel as early and as directly as possible.

Procedures: Students or parents who disagree with or wish to question decisions or actions that are taken by teachers and/or administrators are expected to seek a resolution by pursuing the following steps:

A. Teacher or Classroom Level Problem

1. Discuss the matter directly with the teacher whose judgement or decision is being questioned.
2. If not resolved, discuss your concern with the Principal.

3. If still unsatisfied with the outcome, discuss your concern with the Assistant Superintendent (contact the Board office at 604-939-9201).
4. Unresolved matters may be referred to the Board as per Board Policy 13.

B. Principal or School Level Problem

1. Discuss directly with the Principal the action, policy, procedure or practice being questioned.
2. If not resolved, refer to the Assistant Superintendent. (see contact information above)
3. If not resolved, refer to the Board as per Board Policy 13.

It is expected that school district personnel will seek a resolution to the problem as quickly as possible.

Tobacco Free Environment – AP 171

The Board declares that all buildings under its jurisdiction and all school grounds shall be designated “tobacco free”. This “no smoking” policy shall be followed by students, staff, parents and visitors always.

Personal Digital Devices in Schools

All cellular phones or similar personal communication devices are to be appropriately stored during class time. At Suwa’lkh, all cell phones are to be stored in the room/holder designated for this. Students may access their phones during lunch. Digital devices of any kind are only to be used at the discretion of your teacher when identified as appropriate for your learning environment or because of unique circumstances.

Any use of personal digital devices at school is subject to all other expectations for conduct and use of technology, including AP 140.2 – Digital Responsibility for Students

3. School Standards

Suwa’lkh School promotes the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law – prohibiting discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation – in respect of discriminatory publication and discrimination in accommodation, service and facility in the school environment.

a) Statement of Purpose:

- To establish and maintain a safe, caring and orderly environments for purposeful learning.
- To establish and maintain appropriate balances among individual and collective rights, freedoms, and responsibilities.
- To clarify expectations for behaviour while at school, on the way to and from school, and while attending school functions or activities at any location.
- To assist students in developing socially responsible behaviours, showing a developing awareness of their role as ethical decision-makers and moral citizens.

b) Conduct Expectations

Acceptable conduct

At Suwa’lkh students are expected to:

- *Follow Section 7 and 8 of Human Rights Code of British Columbia, as listed above in our Alignment Section.*
- Understand and respect the rights of everyone in our community, ○ Including the right to learn and the right of teachers to facilitate learning.
- Treat all students, staff members and visitors with respect.
- Respect the surrounding community and take pride in their school.
- Arrive at school on time and ready to learn.
- Act in a safe, caring and responsible manner, respecting personal space and property.
- Engage in purposeful learning activities in a productive manner.
- Follow acceptable technology guidelines and use computers, and all other electronic devices appropriately and respectfully as instructed by the classroom teacher.
- Photos and videos taken by students require the permission of a teacher and any students involved. No photos or videos to be posted to social media without consent of all parties.

Unacceptable Conduct

(Behaviours listed as unacceptable are examples only and do not represent an all-inclusive list.)

Behaviours that:

- Interfere with the learning of others
- Interfere with an orderly and calm environment, including not following the directions of staff or interfering with staff while they are working with another student.
- Create unsafe conditions

Acts of:

- Bullying, harassment, intimidation (*Bullying includes, but is not limited to, physical or verbal intimidation, verbal harassment and cyber bullying, occurring on or off school property. District Policy 17*)
- Rough play or physical violence
- Retribution against others
- Recording and/ or posting to social media other students engaged in illegal or violent acts or actions that break the school code of conduct.
- Using/naming a physical illness, disability or condition to threaten, harass or intimidate others

Illegal acts, such as:

- Possession, use, or distribution of illegal or restricted substances – cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, vape products, alcohol, drugs
- Possession and use of weapons, replica weapons or items used as potential weapons
- Theft or damage to property

Students may be subject to discipline under the school and/or District Code of Conduct for any conduct, including the use of technology, which has the effect of negatively impacting the school environment, whether that conduct occurs on or off School District property, at a school sponsored function or activity, or otherwise.

A search by school officials of a Suwa'lkh student or their property may be undertaken if the school has reasonable grounds to believe a school rule has been or will be violated, and that the evidence

of that violation will be found in the location or on the person of the student being searched. Students know that their teachers and other school authorities are responsible for providing a safe learning environment and maintaining order and discipline at school. As a result, they must know that, where reasonable grounds exist, this may require searches of students, of their personal effects and the seizure of prohibited items.

Students should also be aware that the schools may collect, use and disclose personal information about students for the purposes of investigating and addressing student misconduct, safety and maintaining order and discipline in school. Such collection and use of student information may include information that is obtained from witnesses or collected from other secondary information sources (e.g., social media). All personal information of students collected by the school will be collected in compliance with and under the authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (ss. 26(a), (b), and(c)) and the School Act. *Questions about the collection, use or disclosure of student personal information should be directed to the Director of Instruction and Chief Information Officer Stephen Whiffin, at swhiffin@sd43.bc.ca.*

a) Rising expectations

There is an increasing personal responsibility and expectation of self-discipline as a student moves from grade 8 through 10, and as such, there may be increasing consequences for inappropriate behaviour. Special considerations may apply to the imposition of consequences on a student with special needs if the student is unable to comply with this Code of Conduct, due to a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature.

b) Consequences

- Responses to unacceptable conduct are pre-planned consistent and fair.
- Disciplinary action, wherever possible is preventative and restorative.
- Students are, where possible, to participate in the development of meaningful consequences for violations of the code of conduct.
- Special considerations may apply to the imposition of consequences on a student with special needs if the student is unable to comply with this Code of Conduct, due to a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature.
- If the problem continues, we are then entering the three levels of "Formal Suspension" as required by School District No. 43

Please note that consistent with AP 355 (1.1): The Principal and/or Vice Principal has the authority to suspend a student up to and including a referral directly to Level III for resolution by the Student Suspension Review Committee

c) Notification

- Parents and/or guardians will be notified, and consequences might be applied depending on the nature of the incident. The nature of the incident and communication with parents must be recorded for future references.
- Parents of the offender and victim will be notified
- School district officials, police and/or other agencies may be notified of breaches of the code of conduct when deemed necessary or required by law.
- Under special circumstances all parents may be notified of breach if it is deemed to be important to reassure members of the community that a serious situation or incident has occurred and the appropriate actions that are being taken to address it.