



DORSET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CODE OF CONDUCT

Dorset prides itself in offering a very positive, polite and peaceful learning environment. Staff members integrate the teaching of respect to all students in all grade levels. As a result, we have nurtured a school culture that is safe and secure and provides an excellent atmosphere for our students to be successful both academically and socially.

We actively ensure that Dorset's behavior expectations and disciplinary systems are aligned with the guidelines of Peaceful Schools International, the legal regulations of Bill 56 (Anti-Bullying/Anti-Violence Law) and the LBPSB Safe and Caring Schools Policy. Further, our actions are consistent with and support our School Success Plan.

Results from several recent, comprehensive student surveys, confirm that our efforts have been highly effective as students overwhelmingly feel safe and comfortable here at Dorset.

The Code of Conduct is another measure to further ensure the safety, security and well-being of our students. It has been developed through school based committee work as well as support and guidance from the school board. It spells out, in clear terms, the behavior expectations for students as well as the consequences should behavior expectations not be respected. The application of the Code of Conduct is ultimately at the discretion of the school administration.

Expected Behaviors Include:

- Be prepared for class by studying and organizing work and materials
- Respect school hours by arriving to school on time
- Be compliant, civil and respectful with all adults in the school as well as bus drivers and volunteers
- Respect all guests, fellow students and volunteers in the school
- Respect the rights and dignity of all staff and students when using social media
- Resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner
- Use positive and encouraging language
- Respect classroom and school rules
- Walk quietly in halls and classroom and not disturb others

- Participate in activities in a safe and responsible manner

Inappropriate and Unacceptable Behaviors include:

- Disruptions in class or anywhere instruction is taking place
- Swearing or use of vulgar language
- Bullying or harassment
- Damage, theft or destruction of school or another person's property
- Aggressive language with other students or staff members
- Racist, sexist, or homophobic slurs
- Throwing of snowballs or dangerous objects
- Violence towards another person (such as kicking, tripping, pushing, punching, or hitting)
- Non-compliance with any staff member, bus driver or authorized volunteer
- Disrespectful or negative behavior towards staff and or students through social media
- Disrespectful behavior to bus drivers during school transportation or school volunteers
- Disrespectful, aggressive or violent behavior towards other students during transportation

BULLYING IS DEFINED AS:

A repeated direct or indirect behavior, comment, act or gesture whether deliberate or not, including in cyberspace, which occurs in a context where there is a power imbalance between the persons concerned and which causes distress, and injures, hurts, oppresses, intimidates or ostracizes.

Examples of bullying behaviors include:

- Name-calling, derisive laughter, defiance, to humble or threaten another person, to make racist or sexist comments
- Hitting, kicking, shoving, spitting, punching, stealing or damaging property
- Social isolation, gossip or rumor-mongering and mockery
- Use of email, texting, cellphone or social media to threaten, harass, embarrass, spread rumors, exclude from the group, or damage a reputation or friendship

INDIRECT BULLYING:

Organizing (from within a group) the belittling of the social status or the exclusion of a targeted person from the group (e.g. making someone less popular, isolating an individual). This type of behavior and attitude is often difficult to perceive.

Examples of indirect bullying include:

- Gossip
- Spreading rumors
- Malicious gossip and slander
- Divulging secrets
- Talking about someone 'behind their back' or writing slurs (graffiti, email, etc.)
- Make a fool of someone, denigrating that person or suggesting that he or she be excluded from a group
- Use of non-verbal language (e.g. turning one's back, mumbling, or rolling one's eyes)

CYBERBULLYING:

Bullying that occurs in the virtual, online world

- It can occur whenever and from wherever as the virtual world is accessible at any time and from just about any place
- It can bring together other witnesses, thereby allowing the immediate distribution of the words and images posted, in a way that is both unlimited and irreversible
- It can occur in a secretive manner and forego the supervision of parents, teachers and other responsible adults

Cyberbullying is particularly insidious because it can:

- Promote depersonalization and lack of empathy: in front of a computer screen, the perpetrator shows less restraint than if he or she was face-to-face with the victim and cannot see the effects of his or her actions
- Without being able to easily prove the actions, any fear of reprisal diminishes

Examples of cyberbullying include:

- 'Flaming' (provocative cell phone messaging)

- 'Happy slapping' (posting fights, incidents, on YouTube)
- Inappropriate messages or photos
- Incitement to 'out' one or other persons
- Threats, insults, rumours
- Identity stealing
- Harassment
- Discrimination
- Denigration
- Defamation

VIOLENCE IS DEFINED AS:

Any intentional demonstration of verbal, written, physical, psychological or sexual force, which causes distress and injures, hurts or oppresses a person by attacking their psychological or physical integrity or wellbeing or their rights or property.

DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

The school staff and administration will impose consequences for behavior based on the severity and/or repetitive nature of the behavior as well as the circumstances of the situation. It should be understood that sanctions are applied with the principle that the long-term goal is the rehabilitation and reintegration of the student who commits an offence. The safety of all students is always the primary goal.

SERIOUS BEHAVIOURAL INFRACTIONS:

Serious infractions including bullying and violence, lack of respect for others or for property, will automatically result in the following disciplinary measures:

1. Immediate intervention with the child by staff members.
2. Communication with parents (telephone, incident report, letter, email).

And may also result in the following, where applicable:

3. Loss of recess and/or lunch and/or daycare outside play privileges.
4. Loss of field trip privileges.
5. Loss of grad activity privileges (where applicable)
6. Loss of extra-curricular privileges.
7. Loss of bus privileges.

In addition, serious or repeated offences may also involve one or more of the following measures:

1. An in school meeting with the parents and the child.
2. A planning conference with the principal and/or teacher.
3. The supervision of the perpetrator during free time; i.e. must be shadowed by a supervisor during recess and at lunch time.
4. Reflection time.
5. Referral for anger management program.
6. Restorative justice
7. Community Service either inside or outside of the school setting
8. Home Study
9. Referral for outside services
10. A suspension out of school followed, if necessary, by a meeting with parents before the student may return. When determining the duration of the suspension, Dorset shall take into account the student's best interest, the severity of the incident, and any previously taken measures, any previous incidents and the safety of all students.
11. If the problem continues, an individual discipline plan involving school professionals and parents may be developed.
12. Recommendation made to move the student to another school or to expel from the Board

Expected Behavior on the School Bus:

1. Always be at the bus stop 5 to 10 minutes early.
2. Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before boarding. Board the school bus in single file, in an orderly fashion, using the handrail.
3. Find your assigned seat quickly without pushing other students. Keep the aisle clear.
4. Remain seated, talk quietly. Do not eat, drink, or leave trash on the bus.
5. Always listen to the driver's instructions.
6. Never put our head or arms out of the windows.
7. Know where the emergency exits are but DO NOT tamper with them.

8. When getting off, wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before leaving your seat. Descend in a single file.

9. Walk a safe distance from the bus so that the driver can see you and know that you are out of danger.

10. Should you need to cross in front of the bus, keep a safe distance and watch for the driver's signal. Do not run. Proceed with caution.

11. Students are permitted to carry only their bag and/or lunch box on the school bus. For any other items the parents/guardians should verify with the bus driver.

Possible Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior on the Bus:

- Bus report filed by driver
- Sanctions as per earlier section on "serious behavioral infractions"
- Potential loss of bus privileges for a period of time

Dorset Dress Code:

Students are expected to dress in clothing that is appropriate for school and the following are prohibited from school. If necessary, the office will provide t-shirts for individuals inappropriately dressed. If the dress code is broken repeatedly by a student, then sanctions from the "serious behavioral infractions" list will be put into place.

Students are not to wear:

- Clothing with inappropriate logos, slogans, pictures
- Clothing with "spaghetti straps" or "off the shoulder" tops
- Clothing that shows midriff
- Clothing with chains, wheels on shoes, spikes on hats, torn jeans
- Jewelry and accessories that are inappropriate for physical education and active play
- Hats, hoods, caps are not to be worn indoors
- Flip flop type sandals
- Shorts and skirts where the length is higher than fingertips extended
- Military apparel



**Student and Parent(s) Commitment Agreement Regarding the
Dorset Code of Conduct for Students**

We, both student and parent(s), acknowledge reading and reviewing the content of this Code of Conduct and will do our very best to respect the behavior expectations and dress code of Dorset School at all times; in the school, on school property, on the bus or on field trips.

Thank you for your co-operation,
Natalie Maurice
Principal
Dorset Elementary School