

Code of Conduct

The purpose of Upland's Code of Conduct is:

- to establish and maintain safe, caring and orderly environments for purposeful learning
- to establish and maintain appropriate balances among individual and collective rights, freedoms and responsibilities
- To clarify and publish expectations for student behaviour while at school, while going to and from school, and while attending any school function or activity at any location.

The Board supports school administration and staff in the maintenance of proper order and discipline that is consistent with Board policy, and 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 have a responsibility to establish a positive school climate in which structure, support and encouragement assist the students in developing a sense of self-discipline and responsibility.

Parents have a responsibility to establish a positive learning atmosphere in the home, to be aware of school policies and procedures to support the school in the development of restorative practices and a peaceful community.

Acceptable Conduct

Respecting self, others and the school

- when moving about within the school, students are requested to do so quietly
- gum chewing is not permitted on the school grounds
- students are asked to remove hats when they are in the school

Helping to make the school a safe, caring and orderly place

-students are to walk their bicycles and other transportation on the school grounds.

-bicycle helmets are mandatory in B.C.

-bicycles etc. must be locked up at the racks provided for this. These bicycle racks are out of bounds during school hours.

-students must remain on the school grounds once they arrive at school.

-written permission is required for students to leave the school grounds at any time other than regular times. (If your child goes home for lunch, one note will cover the year)

-students enter the building through their outside classroom doors.

-students may enter the gym only when a supervising staff member is present

-contact sports such as tackle football are not permitted since students have not been coached in these sports

-students who remain on the school grounds during lunchtime are asked to eat their lunch sitting at their own desks

-personal belongings such as electronic toys, costly jewelry, collections, etc. are to be left at home, since we cannot accept responsibility for their loss or theft, and such temptations can be the cause of many problems

-the use of the Planner or Agenda is an activity designed to teach responsibility and planning to our students, including natural consequences. This is a purposeful learning activity that will increase personal responsibility and self-discipline as students progress from Grade 1 -5

-we ask that students only use the telephone for emergency purposes and have the permission of their classroom teacher

-IN Days will be announced with the expectation that all students stay indoors and find a relatively quiet activity during play times. On **OUT Days** students are asked to go outside when dismissed.

Dress Code – Over the years parents have been very supportive of a modest dress code. Occasionally, as styles and fads change we make a few suggestions to maintain our expectation. No bare midriffs, backs, or t-shirts with inappropriate sayings or suggestive remarks. Straps on t-shirts need to be at least a three-finger – wide width. For those days when it rains, or when the weather gets cooler, please ensure that your child/ren have appropriate clothing and footwear to suit the weather.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Allergies

For more detailed information www.mcf.gov.bc.ca

Peanuts and perfumes / colognes may make life sweeter for many, but for some the effect can be life threatening. Please note that Uplands is a Peanut Safe School. More information appears in newsletters or at PAC Meetings.

When Children are Ill

In fairness to all, please do not send your child to school if there are definite signs of ill health in the morning. Our practice is to have ill children picked up by parents as soon as possible.

Medication

If your child requires special medication (prescriptions) please notify the office. A doctor must fill out special forms before medication can be administered.

Report Absences

If your child is going to be late, or away from school, please let us know. Each morning the secretary will verify all unaccounted absences. 604-533-1285

Arriving to School Late

Students who are late must report to the office before going to the classroom. We encourage all students to arrive in time to help us maintain an orderly environment for purposeful learning.

School Visitors and Community Volunteers

Please see School District Policy 4012

With the advent of new legislation, it is appropriate that parents can volunteer to do noon hour supervision, so long as such utilization does not displace an employee doing that work. All parents and visitors must report to the school office to sign in and they must wear an Uplands volunteer badge while they are on school grounds.

Lost and Found

Items are placed in a lost and found box by the entrance door. Small items, such as keys and jewelry are kept in the office. Periodically we empty the box and walk students by items to see if they can find some of their 'lost' things. Anything left over at the end of the year, will then be donated to a local charity.

Dogs and Children

Please be sensitive to the children who may be fearful, allergic, or even harmed by your family pet. Please leave the dog(s) outside the fenced schoolyard and away from entrances to the school grounds.

Definitions:

The following definitions may be useful in the development of codes of conduct so that everyone in the school community shares a common understanding of terms that appear in the codes. They are not legal definitions, but have been commonly used in the school system.

Bullying behaviour: a pattern of repeated aggressive behaviour, with negative intent, directed from one person to another where there is a power imbalance. Bullying behaviour is a type of harassment and intimidation. This aggressive behaviour includes physical or verbal behaviour, and is an intentional and purposeful act meant to inflict injury or discomfort on the other person.

There are three critical conditions that distinguish bullying from other forms of aggressive behaviour including:

1. *Power*: involves a power imbalance. Individuals who bully acquire their power through physical size and strength, through status within the peer group, and/or by recruiting support of the peer group.
2. *Frequency*: is repeated over time. Bullying is characterized by frequent and repeated attacks. It is this factor that brings about the anticipatory terror in the mind of the person being bullied that can be so detrimental and can have the most debilitating long-term effects.
3. *Intent to harm*: is intended to hurt. Individuals who bully generally do so with the intent to either physically or emotionally harm the other person.

Bullying Bystander: someone who supports the incident by observing, laughing or having knowledge of the incident and not seeking the appropriate assistance or intervention.

Cyber bullying: bullying behaviour, which is carried out through an Internet service such as email, chat room, blog, discussion group or instant messaging. It can also include bullying through mobile phone technologies and any new social networking technologies in the future.

Harassment: any unwelcome or unwanted act or comment that is hurtful, degrading, humiliating, or offensive to another person is an act of harassment. Of particular concern is such behaviour that persists after the aggressor has been asked to stop. Any of the following behaviours could be considered harassment:

- condescending treatment that undermines another's self-respect, name-calling
- teasing, disrespectful comments
- gossiping, spreading malicious rumours, "dirty" looks, social ridicule, public embarrassment
- social isolation ("freezing out" or rejecting others), exclusion from a group, threatening to withdraw friendship
- repeated unwanted communication
- unwelcome jokes, innuendoes, insults, or put downs; taunts about a person's body, disability, religion, attire, age, economic status, ethnic or national origin
- insulting graffiti directed at an individual or group
- unwanted and uninvited sexual attention, particularly when it is intimidating
- hostile, or offensive to the recipient

Teasing and Taunting

Not all teasing is harmful--playful teasing can be fun and constructive. Teasing can help young children develop social skills that they will need in adolescence and adulthood. Playful or good-humoured teasing occurs when it causes everyone to smile or laugh, including the person who is being teased.

Taunting, or hurtful teasing, includes ridicule, name-calling, put-downs, and saying or doing annoying things. Unlike playful teasing, hurtful teasing may cause the person being teased to feel sad, hurt, or angry. More hostile teasing, which may include tormenting or harassing, may require ongoing intervention by a parent, caregiver, teacher, or school administrator.

Discrimination (Human Rights Code) An intentional or unintentional act, which adversely affects a person or group on the basis of prejudice:

- **Discrimination in accommodation, service and facility:** A person must not, without a bona fide and reasonable justification, (a) deny to a person or class of persons any accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public, or (b) discriminate against a person or class of persons regarding any accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public
- **Discrimination because of** the race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation of that person or class of persons.

Intimidation: Intimidation is the act of instilling fear in someone as a means of controlling that person.

For example, any of the following behaviours could be considered intimidation:

- verbal threats: threatening phone calls, threats of violence against a person or property
- physical threats: showing a weapon, jostling, threatening to punch, stalking or following
- defacing or stealing victim's property
- daring or coercing victim to do something dangerous or illegal
- extortion (demanding payment or goods for a victim's safety)
- inciting hatred toward a victim
- setting up a victim to take the blame for an offence

Safe schools: schools in which members of the school community are free of the fear of harm, including potential threats from inside or outside the school. The attitudes and actions of students, staff and parents support an environment that is resistant to disruption and intrusion, and enables a constant focus on student achievement.

Consequences

Responses to unacceptable conduct will take into consideration the age of the child, and the disciplinary action, wherever possible, will be preventative, consistent, restorative, and fair.

Notification

Parents of student offenders and student victims will be notified about serious breaches of the code of conduct. School district officials will be notified as required by district policy. Police and other agencies will be notified as required by law. If an incident of a serious nature occurs, the school community will be notified through a news letter to reassure families that school officials are aware of the incident and are taking appropriate measures to deal with it.

WEBSITES FOR PARENTS

- Langley School District www.sd35.bc.ca
- Uplands Elementary School <http://uplands.sd35.bc.ca/>
- Edinfo Digest – a weekly electronic digest of B.C. Gov. Education news and information <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/edinfo/sub.htm>
- RiskED, a publication that has information re: Physical Student Safety www.bcspp.org
- Safety Tips www.csa.ca and www.safekidscanada.ca
- More website connections on Uplands Elementary School website

School Goal: 2011-2012

Goal #1: To improve students' writing skills.