

ALEX HOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

At Alex Hope we strive to create a safe, respectful and welcoming school environment. This environment is characterized by positive relationships between students, staff and parents. Alex Hope recognizes that bullying and intimidation have a negative effect on the learning climate of the school. Every student has the right to an education and the right to be and feel safe in and around the school. Therefore, everyone has rights and responsibilities in cultivating and maintaining a safe environment where all have the right to belong.

All students are subject to our code of conduct while at school. This includes traveling to and from school as well as attendance at all school sponsored games and functions.

Our expectation for conduct is divided in two major areas: Safety, and Respect/Responsibility.

SAFETY

As members of our school community we always work and play in a manner that is safe for ourselves and others. This means we:

- keep hands and feet to ourselves.
- work and play safely
- speak to each other in a peaceful and non threatening way.
- follow School District #35 (Langley) policy regarding weapons, replica weapons, matches, lighters, laser pointers, cigarettes, violence, alcohol, and drugs.
- play without fighting
- stay on the playground and only leave if going home for lunch (permission must be granted by parents, teacher/principal) or picked up by a care giver.
- refrain from throwing objects that could cause injury or damage to property (rocks,sticks, snowballs)
- walk bicycles on the school grounds.
- walk in hallways at all times.
- leave expensive and valuable items at home (ie. MP3 players, computer games, cameras, wallets)
- enjoy roller blades, skateboards and scooters but not on school grounds.

RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY

As members of school community we exhibit courteous behavior and show respect towards all members of the community. This means we:

- refrain from swearing and making hurtful remarks or gestures (for example no name calling, or language that puts down a particular person, race or group.)
- respect and care for school equipment, neighborhood and personal property (We require payment for any personal or school property defaced or purposefully damaged)
- take hats off when entering the school.
- complete all work to the best of our ability.
- avoid disturbing others during their work.
- use common areas quietly
- dress in clothing appropriate to school and learning.

During non instructional times we are expected to:

- enter and exit the school by assigned doors refrain from loitering in hallways or washrooms.
- follow recess and lunch hours school rules and follow supervisors' directions.

Additional Notes - We expect our students to treat property at school with respect. The School Act requires the school to charge for damage resulting from intentional vandalism and carelessness.

ALEX HOPE ELEMENTARY ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Bullying is defined 'as a pattern of repeated aggressive behaviour, with negative intent directed from one person to another where there is a power imbalance'. Bullying can include:

1. physical intimidation or assault
2. extortion or stealing money or possessions
3. oral or written threats
4. teasing, put downs name calling
5. threatening looks, gestures or actions
6. cruel rumours, false accusations and social isolation
7. cyber bullying, threatening emails, etc

Bullying is not permitted at Alex Hope Elementary on or off school grounds or on any school activity. This includes use of the telephone, computer and e-mail messages to members of the school community at or away from school. Anyone who witnesses bullying is encouraged to **respond safely, promptly and appropriately**. Any personnel (principal or vice principal, teacher, counselor, child care worker etc.)

Consequences for the person who is bullying could range from:

1. Discussions, with all students involved with pro-active solutions decided upon
2. Discussions with students' parents.
3. Completion of assignments that focus on school responsibility such as problem solving sheets, essays, and school service.
4. Follow-up with child care worker, counselor, behavior plan development, additional support/supervision.
5. Suspension
6. RCMP involvement

The consequences decided upon will take into consideration:

1. the student's age/developmental level
2. the seriousness of the incident
3. the student's history
4. the history of the relationship

With documented cases of bullying there will be **follow-up** with the **victim's** parents. The victim could be given additional support through counseling, Child Care assistance and a proactive plan. Due to the positive nature of our school community there are few documented incidents of bullying.

PLAYGROUND SAFETY RULES

General:

1. Gravel is necessary for good drainage and is not to be picked up or thrown, for obvious reasons.
2. Horseplay, play fighting, or pushing are not allowed.
3. Please use the climbing wall with care and do not sit on the top rail.

Slide Use:

4. Students are to use the slides one student at a time, sitting down, facing forward; legs and arms are to be kept inside the slide.

Sharing the courts, fields and playground equipment:

5. Courts fields and playground equipment are shared and students, intermediate and primary have their designated playing areas.

The teachers at Alex Hope Elementary School believe that every student wishes to be a successful learner. In order to bring about this success, each teacher develops an appropriate learning climate according to his or her subject discipline and teacher practices. The teacher's expectations and regulations will be explained to students in the first few days of class. Students are then required to follow these rules set out in each of their classes.

SERIOUS OFFENCES

A school must provide a safe and comfortable environment for students to learn effectively. Consequently certain actions must be dealt with severely by the school, the school board and the law. Actions that are unacceptable include but are not exclusive to:

1. Being under the influence of, or in possession of, alcohol or drugs while at school or at a school function.
2. The use of physical violence or verbal threats in or around the school.
3. The causing of willful damage to school property.
4. Smoking on school property
5. The willful disobedience of the lawful directive issued by a teacher or other employee of the board.

CONSEQUENCES

1. The development of self-discipline is a very important goal at Alex Hope and we are working to adopt methods for teaching the behaviours that are desired. These methods include:

- a. Ways to increase and widen students sense of belonging in the school.
- b. Recognize responsible behaviour on the school grounds
- c. Assistance for dealing with personal problems that affect participation in the life of the school.
- d. The provision of encouragement, direction, guidance, modeling and consistency.
- e. Strengthening interaction between the school, the home and the community.

2. The consequences for behaviour that does not demonstrate responsibility and respect for others will be logical, realistic and consistent. Each case of misbehaviour will be dealt with individually.

a. Minor infractions will be handled on the spot in the classrooms, halls and playground

b. More serious or repeated infractions will be recorded and depending on the seriousness of the situation and repetition of the following progressive actions may be taken:

1. Giving the students 'Time OUT' to think about the behaviour and to develop a plan of improvement.
2. Contact parents
3. Require loss of privileges related to behaviour.
4. Completion of a student 'Behavior Improvement Package.
5. Performance by the student of special services to the school.
6. Assigning an in-school suspension.
7. Placement of student on a behaviour contract.
8. Out-of-school suspension.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

The School Board requires pupils to be dressed for school attendance in neat, clean, and tidy clothing appropriate to reasonable prevailing customs. At Alex Hope, we prefer to have no distractions from learning, therefore this means:

- Dress in clothing appropriate to school and learning.
- No clothing with sayings or slogans about drugs, alcohol, sex, or foul language.
- No tummies showing, no underwear showing, no spaghetti straps, etc.
- Dress for learning....not the beach.

STUDENT ENTRY/EXIT

All students are assigned entry and exit doors. We expect students to use these doors and ask that if parents are coming to school to meet their children after school they use the assigned doors as waiting and meeting points.

STUDENTS LEAVING THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds unless they are going home for lunch and the school has been notified and written permission by the parent is given.

GUESTS/VISITORS TO SCHOOL

All guests, visitors and parent volunteers are required to enter the school at the main entrance, report to the office, identify themselves, sign a visitors book and receive a VISITOR identification pass.

HOMEWORK

At Alex Hope we expect all students to work diligently on their school work. Quality education is carefully planned and we depend on parent involvement and support in the learning process. Why do we assign homework.

1. Research suggests that daily homework does make a difference in student achievement. Practice results in better performance.
2. Homework helps the whole family to become involved in the educational process. It also gives parents an opportunity to see the progress made by their child.
3. Homework and home reading programs develop self-discipline and organizational skills.
4. Homework is one way to teach children responsibility. To complete assignments they must learn to organize, plan and finish tasks on their own. This encourages students independence.

GUIDELINES

Grades One through Three

While we do not assign official homework, there may be times where this important to do, however, spending some time on school work is recommended (about 15 minutes.) The school may assign activities or parents could:

- read and discuss stories together
- review math facts ($1+1=2$, $6+3=9$, etc.).
- play a board, memory, card or matching game.
- go for walks together, looking for traffic signs, specific colours or seasonal signs.
- have children dictate or write letters to their friends or relatives.
- talk to them about your day, then ask about theirs.

Grades Four through Seven

As a general rule, early intermediate students should have around 30 minutes of homework. Older students might have up to an hour.

Recommended activities include:

- continuation of activities listed in grades one through three.
- reviewing school work
- studying for exams.
- silent reading as well as reading together.
- preparing reports.

STUDENT AGENDAS

Alex Hope Elementary School offers agendas for sale to upper intermediate students, helping them learn to manage their time and plan their days, and to keep you as parents and guardians informed of your child's school activities.

The school requires that students keep their agendas with them throughout the school year. Individual teachers may ask parents to sign or initial the agendas on a daily or weekly basis.

Your child can also carry home his or her schoolwork in the the envelope provided for this purpose at the front of the agenda. Please check this envelope daily for other communications from the school (such as newsletters, notes, etc.)