

DISCOVERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At Discovery, we **C.A.R.E.**



*We believe in **C**ommunity, **A**ccountability, **R**esilience, and **E**mpathy*

CODE OF CONDUCT

Educative, Preventative, and Restorative

2024-2025

Code of Conduct

Discovery School's Code of Conduct is in alignment with the Cowichan Valley School District policies and procedures, specifically **AP 104: District Code of Conduct, Policy 25: Identity, Belonging and Connection** and **Safer Schools Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Ministerial Order**. As per the Ministerial Order, all Cowichan Valley schools' Codes of Conduct have at their core, the intention to be *educative, preventative, and restorative* in practice and response.

Educative, Preventative, and Restorative

The severity and frequency of unacceptable conduct, as well as rising expectations for behaviour as students grow and mature, will be considered. Disciplinary decisions will align with District and Ministry Policy Guidelines and will be employed with consistency and fairness. Whenever possible, responses will be educative, preventative, and restorative, rather than punitive. Students, as often as possible, will be encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences to promote learning and growth. The primary function of disciplinary decisions will be to correct, to educate, and to develop positive, contributing members of the school community.

Educative	Preventative	Restorative
Providing learning opportunities to understand and reflect on how actions have impacts.	Proactively creating conditions that keep undesirable actions from happening.	Supporting students to participate in repairing, rebuilding, reinstating, and redressing relationships.

A. Statement of Purpose

All members of the Discovery School Community treat each other with consideration and respect. Our school is a safe and caring environment where all can enjoy the programs and activities offered. This means that we will not tolerate fighting, bullying, intimidation, abusive language, or defiance. Students and adults work with each other in a respectful and courteous manner. The BC Human Rights Code prohibits discrimination based on an individual's or group's race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation. Our school is a place where students are free from harm, where clear expectations of acceptable behaviour are held and met and where all members feel they belong. Publishing, issuing, or displaying any statement, publication, notice, sign, symbol, emblem or other representation that indicates discrimination or an intention to discriminate against a person or a group or class of person to hatred or contempt will not be tolerated. All students can learn positive behavior if they are provided with expectations, consequences, problem-solving tools, and a positive environment. The behavioral expectations at Discovery are based on the following values:

- Community
- Accountability
- Resilience
- Empathy

At Discovery, we CARE. These CARE values are taught, reviewed, and reinforced continuously throughout each year. The grid on the following page outlines some specific details about what it looks like to CARE at Discovery School. These expectations and values apply both on the school premises and during school-sponsored activities that are off the school premises.

B. Acceptable Student Conduct

At Discovery, we support and celebrate choices that promote a sense of Community, Accountability, Resilience, and Empathy. Our school community strives to ensure that we uphold these values while at school, and while attending school functions.

	COMMUNITY	ACCOUNTABILITY	RESILIENCE	EMPATHY
In Class and Around the School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I help keep the classroom and school spaces tidy ○ I help others ○ I include others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I take care of my things: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ my space ✓ my mistakes ✓ my belongings ○ I am honest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I am patient and I wait my turn ○ I keep trying, even when it's hard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I include others ○ I understand that "fair" is not always "equal" ○ I am curious, rather than judgmental
Outside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I take care of shared spaces ○ I put my garbage away ○ I include others ○ I understand that no one "owns" any sections of outside; it is for all of us to share ○ I ask for help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I take care of my things: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ my space ✓ my mistakes ✓ my belongings ○ I stay within the boundary areas ○ I keep my hands to myself ○ I choose kindness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I am patient and wait my turn ○ I keep trying, even when it's hard ○ When I am feeling upset or challenged, I take a breath, count to 10, or get a grown up to help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I am kind to others ○ I am kind to the earth and nature ○ I share the space
Washrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I keep the space clean ○ I leave the lights on ○ I leave the washroom area when I'm done 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I clean up after myself ○ I use the washroom at appropriate times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I go to the washroom alone (without a group of friends) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I am aware of how other/younger students might be feeling in this space
Bus Lanes and On the Bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I treat the bus with respect ○ I keep away from other people's belongings, backpacks, etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I stay within the boundary areas ○ I keep my hands to myself ○ I choose appropriate language ○ I make positive choices when deciding who to sit near 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I am okay if I am not in my preferred spot in line ○ I am okay if I am not in my preferred seat on the bus ○ I am patient and I wait my turn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I help others ○ I show respect and gratitude for bus drivers and supervisors

C. Unacceptable Student Conduct

At Discovery, we recognize that unacceptable behaviours can interfere with the learning, safety, and emotional well-being of others. We also recognize that unacceptable student conduct may apply both on the school premises and during school-sponsored activities that are off the school premises.

Examples may include behaviours that:

- interfere with the learning of others,
- interfere with their emotional well-being
- interfere with an orderly environment
- create unsafe conditions

Examples may include acts, such as:

- bullying (a persistent pattern of unwelcome or aggressive behaviour that hurts others physically and/or emotionally. For a situation to be considered a bullying incident, three indicators are usually present: power, frequency, and intent to harm)
- harassment
- intimidation
- physical violence
- discrimination
- retribution against a person who has reported incidents

Examples may include illegal act, such as:

- possession, use, or distribution of illegal or restricted substances
- possession or use of weapons
- theft or damage to property

These examples do not align with our school values and are *examples* of unacceptable behaviours; they are not an exhaustive list.

D. Rising Expectations

As students grow older and more mature, it is our expectation that they will be held to a progressively higher standard of personal responsibility and self-discipline and will accept increasing consequences for unacceptable behaviour.

Special Consideration for Age and Ability:

Discovery Elementary School is understanding of, and sensitive to learners with diverse abilities that interfere with their ability to understand or follow the school's code of conduct expectations. Special considerations may apply in these circumstances. Some students externalize uncontrollable behaviors that appear to violate the code of conduct. These circumstances should be approached sensitively and case by case in an educative, preventative, and restorative way. This Code of Conduct must not discriminate against a student who cannot meet a behavioral expectation because of diverse abilities.

E. Consequences of Unacceptable Conduct

To maintain a safe, rich learning environment at Discovery Elementary School, learners who exhibit unacceptable behaviours will accept an appropriate consequence. Consequences will align with the following expectations:

- Responses to unacceptable conduct should be consistent and equitable
- Wherever possible, consequences should be *educative, preventative* and *restorative*, rather than punitive or disciplinary.
- As often as possible, students will be encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences for violations of the code of conduct.

Note: We will always consider culturally appropriate and/or culturally sensitive approaches to conduct and consequences of conduct.

E.1 Steps to Address Unacceptable Conduct

Notification

When necessary, especially in instances of repeated unacceptable behaviours, the school Team (teacher or administrator) will inform parents of serious breaches to this Code of Conduct.

Retaliation Prevention

Discovery Elementary School, and the Cowichan Valley School District Board of Trustees will take all reasonable steps to prevent retaliation against a student who has made a complaint of a breach to this Code of Conduct.

E.2 Student Suspension

Suspension is one of many strategies in a complex problem-solving restorative process designed to support a student to address unacceptable conduct. Student suspension may be employed as a part of a larger intervention process, which will be educative, preventative, and restorative. A parent or guardian, and the Associate Superintendent, will always be notified by the administration in the case of a student suspension.

F. Personal Digital Devices

A "Personal Digital Device" refers to any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or access the internet, including, but not limited to, a laptop, tablet, cell phone, or Smartwatch. Personal Digital Devices are not to be accessed or operated during school hours (8:30am-2:13pm). While we will encourage learners to leave their devices at home, if PDDs are brought to school, they will be safely stored in a secure location.

F. Concluding Statement

Cowichan Valley Schools, including Discovery Elementary, ultimately strive to education all student to be good citizens and make good choices. When student behaviour does not align with the Code of Conduct, an educative, preventative, restorative approach is utilized. When discipline is involved, our philosophy is to be as least punitive as possible to promote a change in student behaviour.