



McGirr Elementary

Code of Conduct

A. Statement of Purpose

- To establish and maintain safe, caring and orderly environments for purposeful learning
- 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.

B. Conduct Expectations

Acceptable Conduct

- Respect self, others and the school
- Help to make the school a safe, caring and orderly place
- Report to an adult, in a timely manner, incidents of bullying, harassment or intimidation
- Accept responsibility for your own learning
- Act in a manner that brings credit to the school

Unacceptable Conduct

The following points are examples only and are not an all-inclusive list,

- Behaviours that:
 - interfere with the learning of others
 - interfere with an orderly environment
 - create unsafe conditions
- Acts of:
 - bullying, harassment or intimidation
 - physical violence
 - retribution against a person who has reported incidents
- Illegal acts, such as:
 - theft of or damage to property
 - possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances such as firecrackers
 - possession or use of weapons

Bullying

McGirr School believes that all students, staff and volunteers should be provided a safe, secure and welcoming learning

and working environment. To that end, acts of bullying and harassment will not be tolerated.

Bullying is defined as an intentional action on the part of an individual, which causes emotional or physical distress of a victim. Bullying implies a power difference of one individual over another. It many involve a single incident or a series of incidents over time.

Barbara Coloroso, the author of, *The Bully, The Bullied and The Bystander*", says, "bystanders are the supporting cast who aid and abet the bully through acts of omission and commission. It is important that kids recognize that they are all responsible for helping to create a safe, caring, respectful and bully-free environment." Bystanders will have consequences if they don't accept the responsibility of reporting incidences to teachers or supervisors.

Bullying takes three main forms:

- Physical bullying** – involves hitting the victim in some way or taking or damaging a victim's property.
- Verbal bullying** – using words to hurt or humiliate others.
- Relational bullying** – trying to convince their peers to exclude or reject a certain person or people, and cut the

victims off from their social connections.

C. Rising Expectations

Expectations will increase for students as they become older and more mature, and as they move through successive grades. Students are expected to exhibit increased personal responsibility and self-discipline and there will be increasing consequences for inappropriate behaviour.

D. Consequences

- responses to unacceptable conduct are pre-planned and consistent e.g., 3 steps(below)
- disciplinary action, wherever possible, is preventative and restorative, rather than merely punitive
- students, as often as possible, are encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences for violations of the established code of conduct, e.g., participating in working through a "Problem-solving sheet"

Step 1

Discussion between student and staff member. When students choose not to meet behavioural expectations, there will be natural, logical and consistent consequences. Minor indiscretions are handled by staff. Frequently the consequence will be in the form

of a time-out. It may also involve completion of a "Problem Solving Sheet" where students can reflect upon their actions and consider better choices next time. Parents are often informed and are required to sign the "Problem Solving Sheet".

Step 2

Office Referral Forms are issued for major offences (i.e. rough play, bullying, fighting, physical abuse of others, throwing objects, defiance of authority, disrespectful/abusive language) and continual defiance of school rules. Students are referred to the Principal. Parents are informed.

Step 3

Parents are contacted for serious incidents of misbehaviour or if minor incidents persist beyond step two. Depending on the severity or frequency of the misbehaviour, students are given in-school or home suspensions for:

- persistent inappropriate behaviour, which disturbs, interrupts or disquiets the usual, orderly operation of the school
- inappropriate behaviour judged to have a harmful effect on the safety of other pupils

For the following, students can expect to be suspended immediately, from between one

to five days: fighting, overt rudeness, alcohol and/or drug use, stealing, vandalism and any action that deliberately endangers the health and safety of others.

In addition to applying natural and logical consequences for misbehaviour, our discipline procedures include such methods as developing behaviour contracts and counselling for pupils.

E. Notification

In cases of serious breaches of the Code of Conduct, the school will advise other parties, including:

- Parents of student offender(s) – in every instance
- Parents of student victim(s) – in every instance
- School district officials – as required by school district policy
- Police and/or other agencies – as required by law

All parents – when deemed to be important to reassure members of the school community that school officials are aware of a serious situation or incident and are taking appropriate action to address it.