

**Merritt Secondary School  
Code of Conduct  
2017/2018**



**Purpose:**

The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to support our Vision/Mission Statement:

*"To inspire and empower one another to lead purposeful lives. We will passionately and respectfully engage one another to recognize and reach our individual potential."*

**Expectations:**

These expectations are for all members of our school community while in attendance at school, while travelling to and from school, and while attending any school function at any location.

**I. Examples of Exemplary Conduct include the following:**

- a. Be truthful and trustworthy;
- b. Demonstrate respect for self, others, and the school;
- c. Assist in making the school a safe and respectful facility;
- d. Inform staff of incidents of bullying, harassment, intimidation or violence and discourage such acts;
- e. Participate in acts that bring credit to the school;
- f. Be a positive role model;
- g. Recognize our cultural diversity and act in a manner that ensures safety for all cultures in our school;
- h. Attend all classes on time, prepared to work.

**II. Examples of Unacceptable Conduct include these behaviours:**

- a. Behaviours that create unsafe conditions or that interfere with one's own learning or the learning of others. This includes texting or making phone calls during class;
- b. Bullying, harassment or intimidation of others;

- c. Retaliation against individuals who have reported breaches of our Code of Conduct;
- d. Watching, filming or encouraging bullying or fighting;
- e. Illegal acts such as possession, use, or distribution of any restricted, unsafe, or illegal materials/substances;
- f. Possession or use of any item that could be a weapon;
- g. Attempted theft, theft and/or damage to property;
- h. Abusive and profane language.

### **Consequences:**

Whenever possible, incidents will be resolved by discussion, mediation and restitution. School responses to unacceptable behaviour are consistent and fair; responses are framed around a restorative justice philosophy. We will respect the individual differences of students and respond to each situation according to the student's age, maturity, capacity and past conduct. As students mature there is an expectation that they will practice and model characteristics of increased personal responsibility and self-discipline.

### **Notification:**

Minor infractions will be worked out with the student, and parents may be informed. For major infractions, parents of both offenders and victims will be informed by school officials. This communication may be a phone call, email, letter mailed home, and/or a meeting. As required by law and policy, additional agencies such as the police and/or school officials (Board office) will be informed.

### **BC Human Rights Code**

All participants in school activities, events, or business shall conduct themselves in accordance with the BC Human Rights Code and its basic principles of respect and fairness. No person shall discriminate against another person through action, publication, or service.