

# SESS Code of Conduct 2025-26

Updated September 2025

## EXPECTATIONS for STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE:

At SESS, all students and staff must behave in a way that promotes a safe school. This begins with treating everyone in the building with the kind of respect that is expected in return. If we all do this, we will have a building that is safe and provides students with the ability to put their energy into learning and achievement. It is important that students, parents, the community, and staff perceive the school environment as safe and welcoming.

Students also need to behave in a way that supports their learning and others'. This begins with arriving at school on time and well rested. This also means coming to school every day and doing one's best to concentrate on what is expected in each class. If students do this, they will be successful at our school.

Being "discrimination free" as defined by BC Human Rights Code, SESS prohibits discrimination set out in section 7 (Discriminatory publication) and section 8 (Discrimination in accommodation, service and facility) of the *Human Rights Code*, RSBC 1996, c. 210. The following are grounds for discrimination which are set out in sections 7 and 8 of the *Human Rights Code*: race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and age.

We understand that young people will make mistakes, and on occasion will not behave in a way that is respectful or supportive of learning. When this happens, we deal with it through our District Discipline Policy, which is used in every school in our district. Essentially, this policy outlines the right of administration to administer consequences for each individual student and situation. A progression of discipline is the normal course of action; however, it must be noted that the administration has the right to be creative in their approach to consequences.

This policy is designed to identify problems and come up with solutions before the problems get out of hand. When this approach is not happening and a student's behavior exhibits a pattern of dysfunction, they will then be referred to the District Review Committee.

Special considerations may apply to students with special needs if these students are unable to comply with a code of conduct due to having a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Demonstrate respect and tolerance for all members of the school and the community.
- Report all incidents of bullying to teachers and administration.
- Attend all anti-bullying activities and classes.
- Report situations of bullying or harassment.

## REQUEST FOR PARENT SUPPORT

- Model acceptance, tolerance, and an anti-bullying perspective in the home.
- Report any information regarding bullying.
- Encourage your child to report bullying.

## ACCEPTABLE CONDUCT

- respecting self, others, and the school
- helping to make the school a safe, caring, and orderly place
- telling a staff member about incidents of bullying, harassment, and intimidation
- getting involved in learning activities on time
- helping make our school a better place

## UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT

- Behaviours that interfere with the learning of others, interfere with an orderly environment, creating unsafe conditions
- Acts of bullying, cyber bullying, harassment, or intimidation; physical violence; retribution against a person who has reported an incident
- Illegal Acts, such as possession, use, or distribution of illegal or restricted substance; possession or use of a weapon; theft or damage to property

## BULLYING / HARASSMENT / INTIMIDATION

### School Responsibilities

- Produce and maintain a school Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy.
- Involve staff members, parents, and community members in open dialogue around needed improvements and concerns regarding bullying issues and the school policy.
- Make sure all staff members identify bullying, report bullying and address bullying behavior.
- Hold educational events in the classrooms and in assemblies, which address the topic of defining bullying and teach anti-bullying behavior.
- Provide support to individuals who are being bullied.
- Intervene in bullying situations and provide corrective action for bullies.
- Respond to complaints about bullying.

### Weapons/Violence/Harassment

Students are forbidden from threatening to and/or actually bringing anything to school that could be construed as a weapon. This includes, but is not limited to actual weapons, “look-alike” weapons, or any common object that is being used by the student as a weapon. Consequences may include confiscation of the object, detention, suspension, referral to the district discipline committee, and/or removal of the student from attending school.

## DISCRIMINATION

At SESS, we adhere to the BC Human Rights Code in respect of discriminatory publication and discrimination in accommodation, service, and facility in the school environment. We prohibit fear promoting, harassing or discriminatory language and behavior toward students, employees or others based on their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identification. For more information regarding this please see:

- District Discipline Policy F-3: Student Conduct and Discipline -
- District Policy F-14: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- BC Human Rights Code Website - <http://www.bchrt.bc.ca/>

## ATTENDANCE PRACTICE

It is our legal responsibility to document student attendance. It is also very clear that effective student learning relies on students attending class every day; therefore, it is essential that we all take attendance as a serious responsibility.

Students have a responsibility to be in class every day unless there is a legitimate illness or a special appointment that cannot be accommodated after school hours. When this happens, parents must contact the school and confirm that the absence is legitimate. Teachers have a responsibility to ensure that the students absent from their class are not truant.

Students who are absent without parents contacting the school are marked as an “A” on the attendance sheet. This means that parent contact has not been made and the absence will be considered unexcused. All students who arrive late (with parent’s note) must sign in at the office before going to their first class. Student trancies will be dealt with as per the District Discipline Policy.

In Elementary, attendance will be taken twice a day; first thing in the morning and first thing in the afternoon.

## LATE POLICY

Students will report to the office for a late slip if they have not yet attended any class and they have a parent’s note. Without a note, students may receive consequences from teachers or the school office for single or excessive late attendance. The consequences for excessive late attendance may be progressive.

## TRUANCY PRACTICE

For our school to focus on learning and achievement, it is essential that students attend school every day prepared to give us their best effort. Truancy refers to a student “skipping” or not attending an assigned class, and this includes work experience. A student can be truant if they are enrolled in a class or course but choose to not attend without a valid excuse in advance. If a student is truant, the school administration will assign consequences.

## PROCESS FOR DEALING WITH UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

The failure of a student to follow the school rules is unacceptable. If the incidents are of an ongoing nature, progressive steps, supported by documentation, will apply—including but not limited to: positive behaviour supports, restitution; student discussion with the teacher; teacher contacting parents for a collaborative plan; collaboration and communication with support staff; face-to-face meetings with parents teacher and/or administration; and suspension in or out of school as decided by administration.

## DRUGS, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, VAPOURIZOR USE

Drugs, vaping, smoking, chewing tobacco, etc. or use of vapour products is harmful and not allowed (banned) on school property or within sight of the school. Additionally, the possession and distribution of controlled and/or banned products are not tolerated on or around school property.

Discipline will be progressive when addressing the use of illegal or controlled substances on school property or within sight of the school.

## SESS SCHOOL DRESS CODE

Hats are not to be worn at assemblies or other formal events. Sunglasses are not to be worn in school.

Clothing must have appropriate slogans/images (i.e., no beer slogans, sexually suggestive, or drug images). Students should not wear any clothing that appears intimidating, or that conveys a message of association with illegal or marginal activity.

Shoes or sandals are acceptable; students are not permitted to be barefoot.

1<sup>st</sup> Offence: A student will be asked to put on appropriate clothing, and if they do not have them, they will be provided with temporary proper attire or can call home for a replacement to be delivered.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offence: Student will be expected to cover and wear appropriate clothing. Detention may be assigned. \*For every offence thereafter, an In-School Suspension may be assigned.

Please note that if the student refuses to cover up or use the clothing we provide, administration will contact the parent/guardian, and the student will be sent home to change.

## SKATEBOARD/SCOOTERS/BICYCLE

Skateboards and scooters are to be stored in lockers; they are not to be left in hallways or stored in classrooms. Skateboarding or cycling on school property is prohibited.

## PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

Public Displays of Affection (PDA) is any type of physical affectionate interaction between two individuals that makes other students uncomfortable. The school will allow moderate levels of PDA such as holding hands, hugs, interlocking arms, etc. Demonstrations of affection that go beyond these examples may be PDA. Any school staff may ask students to stop PDA, and students will be expected to

immediately comply.

## STUDENT DRIVERS

Students who drive their vehicles to school and park in the school's student parking lot must display appropriate and safe behavior when operating their vehicles to and from school. If students receive a complaint from staff, students, community members or RCMP, they will not be able to park on school property for the remainder of the school year.

## ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Starting in September 2024, there has been an update to our code of conduct concerning the use of personal digital devices at our school. These restrictions are in accordance with the **amended Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order from the Ministry of Education and Child Care and apply to Board Policy E3, Technology Access and Use**. This new order's main goals are to promote online safety and create a more focused learning environment for our students.

The new policy includes the following key points:

1. **Device Restrictions:** Students will not be allowed to use personal digital devices during instructional hours unless explicitly permitted by a teacher for educational purposes.
2. **Accessibility and Accommodations:** Exceptions will be made for students with specific accessibility or medical needs, ensuring that all students have the support they require.

## DETENTION AND IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION PROCEDURES

Students who are serving detention and in-school suspension are to report to the office at the designated time. Cell phones or any electronic device are not permitted.

## IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

This is where students use an alternate schedule away from their usual classes.

- Students report to the designated room at the first bell (on time).
- Students are required to have enough work to enable them to use their time effectively.
- Students will have their lunch in the in-school suspension room.
- Bathroom breaks must be authorized by the supervisor.
- Students who do not adhere to the rules may be sent home for a formal out-of- school suspension.

## PRACTICES FOR VISITORS

Parents, guardians, and other community visitors must sign in and obtain an authorized Visitor Pass from Reception Desk before being permitted access to classrooms or elsewhere at SESS. We expect all parents and visitors to behave and speak in a manner that is appropriate for a school setting.

