

OSS Code of Conduct for 2024-25



EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR

We expect students to behave in a manner 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 their learning.

Successful students behave in a manner that supports their learning and that of others'. This means arriving at school on time, being well rested, and doing one's best to concentrate on what is expected in each class.

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
 - create unsafe conditions
- * Acts of
 - bullying, cyber bullying, harassment, or intimidation
 - physical violence
 - retribution against a person who has reported incident
- * Illegal Acts, such as
 - possession, use, or distribution of illegal or restricted substance
 - possession or use of weapon
 - theft or damage to property

Being “discrimination free” as defined by BC Human Rights Code, OSS 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, age, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE:

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 follow our District Discipline Policy. Essentially, this policy outlines the right of administration to administer consequences and ways to support 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 and supports. This policy is designed to identify problems and come up with solutions in a restorative manner. The final step, when all else fails, is to refer the student to the District Review Committee.

BULLYING/HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

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, harassment, and sexual harassment and teach anti-bullying behavior and harassment.
- Provide support to individuals who are being bullied or harassed.
- Intervene on bullying situations and provide corrective action for bullies.
- Respond to complaints about bullying and harassment.
- As per SD 53 policy No. F-17, all persons within the school community have a responsibility to promote, monitor and maintain safe learning environments free from sexual harassment.
- All students have the right to attend school in a safe environment free of sexual harassment and assault.

- Sexual harassment and assault violate the fundamental rights, dignity, and integrity of the individual.
- No tolerance for abusive behavior includes discrimination against others on the basis of sex, sexual orientation and/or perceived sexual orientation.

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 (sexual harassment).

Request for Parent Support

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

WEAPONS/VIOLENCE/INTIMIDATION:

Students are forbidden from 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, district discipline committee and/or removal of the student from attending school.

DISCRIMINATION

At OSS we adhere to the *BC Human Rights Code* in respect of discriminatory publication and discrimination in accommodation, service and facility in the school environment. Furthermore, at OSS, 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 identity.

For more information regarding this please see-

District Discipline Policy F3: Student Conduct and Discipline - <http://www.sd53.bc.ca/district/policies>
BC Human Rights Code Website - <http://www.bchrt.bc.ca/>

ATTENDANCE PRACTICE

It is our legal responsibility to document student attendance at OSS. 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.

Attendance will be taken first thing in the morning. Students who arrive late must sign in at the office, obtain a late slip and report to class immediately. Late students who do not get a late slip will be sent to the office to get one. Lates will be dealt with as per our school policy on lates.

Student trancies will be dealt with as per the District Discipline Policy.

LATE POLICY

Students will report to the office for a late slip first during a “morning” late and an “afternoon” late.

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

Truancy refers to a student “skipping” or not attending an assigned class, this includes work experience. A student can be truant if they are in the school but choosing to not attend class. 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.

If a student is truant, the office will assign consequences for this behavior.

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, the following steps, supported by documentation, will apply.

STEP 1- The teacher will discuss expectations with the student(s) involved.

Appropriate consequences will be assigned.

STEP 2-The teacher will contact the parents and work with them to change the student's behavior. A counselor may be involved if it is deemed helpful.

STEP 3-The teacher will arrange a meeting with the parents and student(s) to discuss the problem and to resolve the situation. Teachers will inform the administration of this situation.

STEP 4-The student and his/her parents will have a meeting with an administrator and the student's teachers. In exceptional cases, this meeting may take place without the parents. At this meeting, it will be made clear to the student exactly what steps must be taken to change the unacceptable behavior.

STEP 5-Suspension in or out-of-school. The nature and time of the suspension will be decided by the administration in consultation with those teachers involved. 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 behavioral nature.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION PROCEDURES

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

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

- Students report to the designated room at first bell (on time).
- Students are required to have sufficient 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 will be removed and sent home for a formal out-of-school suspension.

TOBACCO and E-CIGARETTES (VAPE) USE

We strongly discourage any student from smoking, vaping or chewing. Therefore, smoking, vaping and chewing are **not** allowed on school property or in sight of the school or on any school sanctioned events. E-Cigarettes/Vapes are not permitted on school property by law.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

The use or possession of drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol are **NOT** tolerated on or around school property and are NOT permitted during school sanctioned events. Discipline will be progressive when addressing the use of **Drugs or Alcohol on school grounds or during school sanctioned activities or events.**

Discipline will be progressive when addressing the use of Drugs or Alcohol and Tobacco or Vaping on school grounds or during school sanctioned activities or events (including all athletic events, field trips, and cultural activities).

PRACTICES FOR VISITORS

Visitors are **NOT** allowed at OSS.

OSS SCHOOL DRESS CODE

- Sunglasses are not to be worn in school.
- T-shirts must have appropriate slogans/images (no beer slogans or suggestive images, or drug images). Students should not wear any clothing that appears intimidating, or that conveys a message of association with illegal or marginal activity.
- Students are not permitted to be barefoot.
- Students **MUST** wear appropriate clothing at school.

SD 53 PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICE POLICY

Students will not be allowed to use personal digital devices during instructional hours unless permitted by a teacher for educational purposes. Exceptions will be made for students with specific accessibility or medical needs, ensuring that all students have the support they require. Cell phones must not be used during class time and must be turned off and stored in backpacks, lockers, or at home. Students who use such devices inappropriately inside the school building, during the school day, will have their devices confiscated. Students should not be taking pictures of anyone without their consent. Parents will be asked to come to the school to pick up the device.

Examples of inappropriate use of a personal device would include – but not be limited to

- Rude or mean texting, texting during class, sexting, photo sharing, or posting on social media
- Rude, mean or inappropriate phone calls.
- Taking photographs of someone else without their consent.
- Using device to post inappropriate words, pictures or video to Instagram, or any other database.
- Using the device in the hallway or washroom during class time.
- Visiting websites for non-educational purposes

It is the staff's goal at OSS to teach students responsible use of personal devices in the school environment.

SKATEBOARD/SCOOTER POLICY

Skateboards are to be stored in lockers or the office; they are not to be left in hallways or stored in classrooms. No skateboarding on school property.

PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

Public Displays of Affection (PDA) is any type of physical affectionate interaction between two individuals that makes others uncomfortable. As a rule, 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. The school administration, teachers and school staff may ask students to stop PDA, and students will be expected to 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.