

# BRITANNIA SECONDARY SCHOOL

## CODE OF CONDUCT

(Reviewed October 2022)



### A. Statement of Purpose

- To establish, foster and maintain a safe, caring, orderly, inclusive, equitable, welcoming, and nurturing school environment.
- To promote mutual respect, cooperation and social responsibility.
- To support purposeful learning.
- To establish and maintain appropriate balances among individual and collective rights, freedoms and responsibilities.
- To clarify and publish expectations for student behaviour while at school, while online, while going to and from school, while attending any school function or activity and/or in any circumstance which may impact on the school community.

### B. Conduct Expectations

#### Acceptable Conduct

Britannia Secondary School promotes the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code. Students shall not discriminate against others on the basis of the race, religion, colour, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, family status, age, sex or sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical or mental ability, or for any other reason set out in the Human Rights Code of British Columbia, nor shall a student publish or display anything that would indicate an intention to discriminate against another, or expose them to contempt or ridicule, on the basis of any such grounds.

Students at Britannia must accept personal responsibility for learning, for attending classes, and for completing work assignments. In pursuing their education, students are expected to respect the rights of others. Students who have chosen to come to Britannia should understand that certain specific regulations must be enforced so that the school can operate in the best interests of all.

#### School Expectations for Britannia students:

##### Contribute to a safe and secure school environment.

- Keep people and property safe and secure.
- Know the school safety procedures for fire, earthquake evacuation or school lockdown.
- Be familiar with the location of safety equipment.
- Promptly report any situation or behaviour that could put people and property at risk.
- Use the appropriate garbage and recycling containers provided throughout the school

**Participate in the school community.**

- Gain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to become a responsible and successful citizen.
- Conduct yourself in a manner that brings credit to your school.
- Support the democratic process through student elections.

**Be respectful and kind to others.**

- Respect differences among people, including their ideas and opinions.
- Treat others with respect and dignity regardless of race, ancestry and place of origin, citizenship, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, colour and ability.
- Resolve conflicts and differences in a respectful and non-violent way.
- Seek support when necessary.
- Demonstrate honesty and integrity.

**Respect the learning environment.**

- Attend school regularly, be punctual and take responsibility for your studies.
- Remain in class during instructional time.
- Do not interfere with classes that are in session.
- Use personal entertainment or communication devices only when allowed by a teacher.
- Follow computer and on-line policies.

**Unacceptable Conduct**

- **Racism and discrimination will not be tolerated in our School.**
- Physical violence, intimidation or threats including cyber-bullying.
- Possession and/or use of illegal or restricted drugs or alcohol.
- Smoking any substance, using vaporizers or e-cigarettes on school and other District property.
- Carrying or possessing weapons or simulated weapons.
- Verbal abuse, or any form of discrimination, including but not limited to, racism, homophobia, transphobia or ableism.
- Plagiarism, vandalism, and theft.
- Defiance of school authorities.

**Note: Behaviours (both acceptable and unacceptable) cited in the code of conduct are examples only and not an all-inclusive list.**

**C. Consequences:**

A breach of these rules, including the defiance of school authority, will be viewed seriously.

- Disciplinary action, wherever possible and appropriate, is restorative rather than punitive.
- Repetitive or severe unacceptable behaviour may result in increased severity of subsequent disciplinary action. The age and maturity of students are considered when determining appropriate consequences.
- Discipline can take a variety of forms, including but not limited to: reprimand, detention, service work, loss of privileges, disciplinary record, suspension, transfer or a combination of these consequences.
- The school will treat seriously behaviour or communication that discriminates the values in the BC Human Rights Code such as any behaviour that discriminates based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, physical or mental disability, sex, or sexual orientation.

- Special considerations may apply to students with diverse needs if these students are unable to comply with a code of conduct due to having a disability/challenge of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional, or behavioural nature.
- Students, as often as possible, are encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences for violations of the established code of conduct.

## **Rising Expectations**

As students become older, more mature and move through successive grades, they will assume increased personal responsibility and self-discipline. Behavior expectations and consequences take account of student age, grade, and maturity level, and are adjusted accordingly.

## **Suspensions**

In accordance with the School Act, Sec. 85(2)(ii) and (d), the Board authorizes the Principal or designate of any school in the district to suspend a student from attendance at school for up to five days.

Suspensions may be for the following reasons:

- a. because a student is willfully and repeatedly disrespectful to a teacher or to any other employee of the Board carrying out responsibilities approved by the Board;
- b. because the behaviour of the student breaches the District Code of Conduct or policy and/or has a harmful effect on others or the learning environment of the school.
- c. because the student has failed to comply with the School Code of Conduct.

Suspensions over five days are made in consultation with the appropriate Director of Instruction as per the [District Student Code of Conduct, AP 350](#). As per AP 350 7.7 an educational program must be provided.

## **D. Notification:**

School officials have a responsibility to advise other parties of serious breaches of the code of conduct. These parties may include:

- staff,
- parents/guardians of a student offender,
- parents/guardians of a student victim,
- school district officials,
- police and/or other agencies as required by law.

All reasonable steps will be taken to prevent retaliation against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of a code of conduct.