

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

(Established 1995/revised 2006/07, 2009/10, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020/10, 2021, 2023, 2024)

This code is designed to provide guidelines for appropriate student conduct while under the jurisdiction of North Island Secondary School.

Our school Code of Conduct can be represented by three phrases:

**TAKE CARE OF SELF
TAKE CARE OF OTHERS
TAKE CARE OF PLACE AND PROPERTY**

SCHOOL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: NISS is an educational institution. Students who are attending this school are expected to learn in a safe, caring and orderly school environment. To be successful, they are expected to take an active part in their education. This means they are to attend regularly, punctually, actively participate in class and regularly complete their assignments and be aware of and follow the student's code of conduct.

The lists of appropriate and inappropriate behaviours are not to be considered all-inclusive.

EACH STUDENT IS EXPECTED TO:

Become knowledgeable about, and conduct himself/herself, according to this Code of Behaviour.

Develop positive attitudes and behaviour by:

- moving quietly in hallways and on grounds without causing distractions
- caring for school property and equipment
- using language free from profanity
- following the student dress code
- no offensive, demeaning or culturally insensitive messages or attire, and no clothing that compromises safety in areas such as shops or the gymnasium
- refraining from excessive displays of affection
- allowing others to work without distraction or undue noise
- obeying all reasonable instructions given by staff

Participate to the best of his/her ability in the school's program by:

- working to achieve the objectives set forth for each class
- bringing appropriate equipment and materials to class
- asking for assistance when material is not understood
- completing any assignments missed due to absence
- students are expected to submit original work for assessment
- refraining from cheating or plagiarizing

Attend school on a regular basis as demonstrated by:

- attending each class regularly and punctually
- being absent only for sufficient reason and with parental approval
- bringing a note or having a parent telephone or e-mail the school for each absence, late arrival or early departure
- realizing that unverified absence and/or constant tardiness will have consequences
- leaving class only with teacher's permission

Respect the feelings of others by:

- Being civil in word and actions of others
- Treating all others with dignity and respect, the same way you would want to be treated both in person and online

Comply with appropriate use of personal digital devices and restrictions, including:

- Personal devices, (such as, but not limited to) cellphones, iPads, Tablets, will be safely stored, on silent mode, and out of sight during instructional time
- Exceptions to restrictions apply when the classroom teacher gives permission to use personal devices for educational activities, and/or when students require personal devices for learning accessibility and/or medical purposes under staff supervision
- At all grade levels, students must follow the expectations for conduct and use of technology as outlined in School District 85 Use of Personal Electronic Devices Policy # 2-350 found here:
<https://www.sd85.bc.ca/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2-350.pdf>

Respect the privacy of others:

- Refraining from taking pictures, recording, or video of others without the direct permission of the individual

- Not posting images or pictures on social media
- Respect the property of others by:
- not taking the property of others
- not damaging, defacing or hiding the property of this school or of others

Avoid conduct which interferes with an individual's or the group's health or safety by:

- using spoken and written language including the use of such language on web sites or through text messages that respects the races of all individuals and displays courtesy towards everyone
- refraining from physical violence, or aggressive behaviours such as, but not limited to, verbal threats, bullying, intimidation or harassment in and around the school, at school functions or on web sites or through text messages
- bringing guests to the school only if pre-arranged with the school principal or vice-principal, and only for acceptable reasons
- obeying the law with regards to smoking and drug use and possession (including alcohol) when in the school, on school district property and at school functions. This includes the use of e-cigarettes and vaping devices
- obeying the law with regards to the possession of fireworks, weapons and imitation weapons, and the use of fire alarms when in the school, on school district property or at school functions

Use procedures of due process when necessary by:

- discussing a problem with a teacher, counsellor, or administrator
- appealing to the Vice-Principal, accompanied by a parent if necessary
- appealing to the Principal, accompanied by a parent if necessary

SERIOUS OFFENSES

A school must provide a safe and comfortable environment for students to learn effectively. Consequently, certain actions must be dealt with severely by the school, the school board, or the law. These include:

- the use of foul, offensive or racist language towards staff or other students, including the directing of such language through internet sites and/or via text messages
- the use of aggressive behaviours, physical violence or verbal threats towards staff or students including the use of internet sites or via text messaging to convey such threats
- the possession at school of weapons or imitation weapons
- the causing of a false fire alarm or false 911 calls
- the use or sale of fireworks
- being under the influence of, or in possession of alcohol or drugs while at school, on school property or at a school function
- chronic truancy
- theft of school or personal property while at school, on school property or at a school function

Rising expectations - As students move from grade to grade, they will assume increasing personal responsibility for behaving in a safe and appropriate manner while on NISS property, attending NISS functions and while being involved in school-related activities.

Consequences - The consequences for non-compliance with the school code of conduct will reflect the level of the offense and the age and maturity level of the student. Those in authority (adult supervisors, teachers and administrators) will consider the severity and frequency of unacceptable conduct in determining disciplinary action.

Consequences include, but are not limited to:

- Meeting with the student, teacher, counsellor, parent/guardian and/or school administration
- Referral to the school-based team
- Administrative intervention including suspension to the Board of Trustees and withdrawal from school
- Involvement of the RCMP and/or other community agencies

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

Notification - School staff may, depending on the severity and frequency of unacceptable conduct:

- contact and inform parents directly about a student's unacceptable conduct
- inform the parents of student who have been the victims of unacceptable conduct
- inform school district officials as required by district policies
- contact police and other agencies as required by law
- alert school staff and school community as deemed appropriate by school and/or district administration

RETALIATION

The Board will take all reasonable steps to prevent retaliation by a person against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of a code of conduct.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN BC

In conjunction with the NISS Code of Student Conduct, the BC Human Rights Code applies to all businesses, agencies and services regulated by the province, including NISS. It prohibits discrimination on the basis of an individual's or a group's race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, or sexual orientation. Students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (referred to in this part as 'LGBTQ+'), or are perceived to be LGBTQ+, or who associate with LGBTQ+ people, have rights to equal protection, privacy and free expression. LGBTQ+ students and same-gender parented families have a right to be recognized and affirmed.