



School Code of Conduct

Statement of Purpose

At Margaret Stenersen Elementary, we have a School Code of Conduct to establish and maintain a safe, caring and orderly environment for purposeful learning and the development of citizenship skills.

Anti-Discrimination Commitment

Margaret Stenersen Elementary School affirms its commitment to the anti-discrimination principles and values contained in the B.C. Human Rights Code that includes the prohibited grounds of discrimination in respect of discriminatory publication and accommodation. Our school recognizes that students and staff have the right to a safe, inclusive and welcoming learning environment regardless of their race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age.

A Safe, Caring and Orderly School

We want all students to feel safe and secure both physically and emotionally. Through shared responsibility involving home, school and community, we strive to provide a safe, positive and orderly environment where all students can learn.

Access to Safe Zones

Access Zones have been reinstated around K-12 public and independent schools to protect students, staff, and families from disruptive protests. These zones, initially established under the Safe Access to Schools Act in May 2024, are now in effect during school days from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and during extracurricular activities. Police are empowered to arrest or issue tickets to anyone obstructing access, disrupting educational activities, or intimidating individuals within 20 meters of school property. We remain committed to ensuring that schools are safe environments for all students and staff.

Student Use of Personal Digital Devices in School

We believe in promoting on-line safety and a focused learning environment. Students are expected to:

- refrain from inappropriate computer usage and/or multi-media devices
- refrain from using personal digital devices during school hours unless given the expressed permission of the school administrator/teacher.

A personal digital device is any personal digital device that can be used to communicate or to access the internet, such as a cell phone or a tablet.

Expected Behaviour

Students are expected to adhere to a variety of acceptable behaviours to enhance their learning and support the school as a safe, caring, and orderly place. These include:

Honesty and Integrity: Students are expected to be always honest with fellow students, staff, parents, and others in our school community. Respectful words and actions build a reputation of integrity which is a very important quality.

Respect For and Safety of Others: Students are expected to always treat others with consideration and respect. They are to avoid situations that may lead to fighting, bullying or threatening behaviour. Students have a responsibility to inform their teachers or the school administration promptly of incidents of bullying, harassment, or intimidation. Participation in play should consider safety and appropriateness. Students should model fair play and courtesy as a participant or spectator in all sports and recreational activities while at the school or representing the school offsite. Every member of the school community has a right to a safe and secure environment, to be treated with respect and to have safe passage, without interference, to and from school.

Unacceptable Behaviour

Transgressions of the School and District Codes of Conduct will be dealt with in an appropriate and timely manner. Examples of transgressions would include:

Behaviours that interfere with:

- the learning of others and the emotional well-being of others
- our safe and secure environment
- one's own learning

Acts, such as:

- bullying, harassment or intimidation
- physical violence
- retribution against a person that has reported transgressions

Illegal acts, such as:

- possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances
- possession or use of weapons
- theft of or damage to property (i.e. vandalism)

Rising Expectations

As you mature and become a more positive role model in our community, you will develop a deeper sense of pride and belonging to our school. This will enable you to guide younger students in reaching their potential within a safe, caring, and orderly environment. With maturity comes an increased awareness of personal responsibility, and you will better understand the need for escalating consequences for inappropriate behaviour.

The severity and frequency, age, and maturity of the students are taken into consideration when unacceptable conduct occurs. Additionally, considerations for a student's disability or diverse ability will

be taken into account. Consequences will be consistent and fair. Disciplinary action, whenever possible, is preventative and restorative, rather than merely punitive. Escalating consequences include:

1. a discussion
2. a warning
3. a natural consequence
4. referral to school-based team or administration
5. referral to district personnel

Serious Breaches of the School Code of Conduct

When there is a breach of the School Code of Conduct, school officials may have a responsibility to advise the following:

1. Parents of offenders, victims.
2. School district officials as required by school district policy.
3. Police and/or other agencies as required by law.
4. All parents when deemed to be important to reassure members of the school community.