

# George Bonner Elementary School

**“Proud to be a B.E.A.R.!”**

## Code of Conduct

Educative, Preventative, and Restorative



**Be  
Respectful**



**Be  
Responsible**



**Be Safe**

**2025-2026**

### George Bonner Elementary School Code of Conduct

#### Code of Conduct

George Bonner Elementary's Code of Conduct has been developed in collaboration with staff, students, and families to maintain a positive and welcoming school

environment. The Code of Conduct is in alignment with Cowichan Valley School District Administrative Procedure 104: District Code of Conduct and Policy 25: Identity, Belonging and Connection, as well as Safer School Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Ministerial order. As per the Ministerial Order, all Cowichan Valley schools' Codes of Conducts have at their core, the intention to be *educative, preventative, and restorative* in practice and response.

### **Educative, Preventative, and Restorative**

Conduct decisions will align with District and Ministry Policy Guidelines and will be employed with consistency and equity. Whenever possible, responses will be *educative, preventative, and restorative*, rather than punitive. Students, as often as possible, will be encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful outcomes to promote learning and growth. The primary function of addressing student conduct will be to correct, educate, and develop positive, contributing members of the school community.

<b>Educative</b>	<b>Preventative</b>	<b>Restorative</b>
Providing learning opportunities to understand and reflect on how their actions have impacts.	Proactively creating conditions that keep undesirable actions from happening.	Supporting students to participate in repairing, rebuilding, reinstating, redressing relationships.

### **Statement of Purpose**

George Bonner Elementary's School Code of Conduct exists to provide everyone at school with a safe, orderly, and caring learning and working environment. The Code of Conduct can be simplified into three simple statements: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe. The Code of Conduct is continuously taught, practiced, and reinforced. Upholding the expectations within the Code of Conduct is the responsibility of all members of George Bonner Elementary's learning community (students, staff, and families). The Code of Conduct is the responsibility of everyone while on school premises, when traveling to and from school, and at all extra-curricular events, programs, and activities.

At George Bonner Elementary, the "Proud to Be a Bear" slogan and B.E.A.R. acronym represent a shared set of values and goals that guide the actions of all students and staff. These values are:

- B – Believe in yourself
- E – Engage in your learning
- A – Achieve your goals
- R – Respect everyone

By explicitly teaching students what it means to be a B.E.A.R., we empower them to take an active role in their learning and to contribute positively to both the classroom and the broader school community. At George Bonner, being a B.E.A.R. reflects our commitment to fostering a respectful, inclusive, and achievement-oriented environment—one that aligns with and upholds our school's Code of Conduct.

George Bonner Elementary School will address all behavior or communication that discriminates based on race, colour, political belief, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation, age, criminal summary or convictions, retaliation, or lawful source of income (as per *prohibited grounds set out in the BC Human Rights Code*). George Bonner Elementary strives to be a place where all learning community members feel welcome, belonging, and enjoy positive experiences. The expectations outlined in the Code of Conduct document will provide clear expectations for behaviour and actions, guidelines for addressing breaches of the Code of Conduct, and reinforce the importance of ongoing educative, preventative, and restorative practices and experiences.

## Acceptable Student Conduct

George Bonner Elementary is a learning community where people learn and work together to encourage behaviours and choices that foster positive experiences for all students, families, and staff. We believe that everyone has the right to learn and work in a safe and positive learning environment. To establish this atmosphere, everyone must show respect, be responsible, and act in a safe manner. Below are detailed expectations for how the Code of Conduct is to be demonstrated and upheld at George Bonner Elementary.

	Be Respectful	Be Responsible	Be Safe
<b>When learning</b> (classroom, gym, library)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use kind words and actions</li> <li>Listen when others are speaking</li> <li>Celebrate differences and include others</li> <li>Wait your turn and share space fairly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow directions the first time</li> <li>Take care of personal and school property</li> <li>Be on time and prepared to learn</li> <li>Own your actions and choices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself</li> <li>Use equipment and materials appropriately</li> <li>Stay in designated areas</li> <li>Report unsafe situations to an adult</li> </ul>
<b>When playing and connecting</b> (playground/school yard)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take turns and share equipment</li> <li>Use kind words and include others in play</li> <li>Listen to others' ideas and games</li> <li>Treat others how you want to be treated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow playground rules and routines</li> <li>Use equipment properly and return it when done</li> <li>Solve problems peacefully or seek help from an adult</li> <li>Be aware of time and transitions back to class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep hands and feet to yourself</li> <li>Stay within playground boundaries</li> <li>Use equipment safely and as intended</li> <li>Report injuries or unsafe behavior to an adult</li> </ul>
<b>When developing independence</b> (washrooms, bus, hallways)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use quiet voices and polite language</li> <li>Respect others' personal space and privacy</li> <li>Follow adult directions and school expectations</li> <li>Wait your turn patiently and calmly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Go directly to your destination and return promptly</li> <li>Keep belongings with you and organized</li> <li>Follow routines and use time wisely</li> <li>Make good choices even when no one is watching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walk calmly and stay to the right in hallways</li> <li>Stay seated and follow bus safety rules</li> <li>Use washrooms appropriately and hygienically</li> <li>Report spills, messes, or unsafe behavior to an adult</li> </ul>

<b>When in community</b> (field trips, events, and activities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen to guides, presenters, and adults</li> <li>• Use polite language and manners in public spaces</li> <li>• Respect the environment and property of others</li> <li>• Include and support classmates during activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay with your group and follow instructions</li> <li>• Take care of personal belongings and school materials</li> <li>• Represent your school positively</li> <li>• Be prepared and follow the schedule</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow adult directions at all times</li> <li>• Stay in designated areas and with your buddy/group</li> <li>• Use transportation safely and appropriately</li> <li>• Report concerns or unsafe behavior to a supervising adult</li> </ul>
<b>When Eating</b> (snack time, lunch eating, special events)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use polite table manners and kind words</li> <li>• Wait your turn and share space fairly</li> <li>• Respect others' food choices and allergies</li> <li>• Clean up your area when finished</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eat your own food and follow school food rules</li> <li>• Use time wisely and follow routines</li> <li>• Dispose of garbage and recyclables properly</li> <li>• Be prepared with everything you need (e.g., utensils, lunch kit)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay seated while eating</li> <li>• Keep hands and food to yourself</li> <li>• Avoid sharing food to prevent allergic reactions</li> <li>• Follow adult instructions during eating times</li> </ul>

## Unacceptable Student Conduct

George Bonner Elementary values the social-emotional well-being and education of students and the importance of maintaining a positive school culture. All members of the school community have an obligation to refrain from participation in unacceptable behaviours or actions that discredit themselves, others, or the school. Unacceptable conduct includes but is not limited to list provided below.

### Behaviours that:

- Interfere with the learning or work of others
- Interfere with an orderly environment
- Impact the social-emotional well-being of others
- Create unsafe conditions

### Online or In-Person Acts of:

- Bullying, harassment, racism or intimidation
- Physical violence
- Retribution against a person who has reported incidents

### Illegal acts, such as:

- Possession, use, or distribution of illegal or restricted substances
- Possession of weapons or replicas
- Theft of or damage to property

## Rising Expectations

As students grow older and more mature, it is our expectation that they will be held to a progressively higher standard of personal responsibility and self-discipline and will accept increasing consequences for inappropriate behaviour.

George Bonner Elementary's Code of Conduct includes special consideration for age and ability:

George Bonner Elementary will be understanding of and sensitive to students with diverse abilities that

*interfere with their ability to understand or follow the school's Code of Conduct expectations.*

*Special considerations may apply in these circumstances. Some students externalize behaviours that may appear to violate the Code of Conduct. These circumstances will be approached with sensitivity and case by case in an educative, preventative, and restorative way. George Bonner's Code of Conduct will not discriminate against a student who cannot meet a behavioural expectation because of diverse abilities.*

## **Consequences of Unacceptable Conduct**

Consequences have the following expectations:

- Responses to unacceptable conduct should be consistent, and equitable.
- Wherever possible, consequences should be educative, preventative, and restorative, rather than punitive or disciplinary.
- As often as possible, students should be encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences for violations of the Code of Conduct.
- We will always consider culturally appropriate and/or culturally sensitive approaches to conduct and consequences of conduct.

Examples of consequences include, but are not limited to,

- Conference/conversation with all affected parties
- Notification of parent(s)/guardian(s)
- Restitution (school or community based)
- Referral to School Based Team
- Removal from classroom, playground, or privileges
- Referral to counselling or supportive interventions
- Activation of the VTRA protocol and involvement of Safe Schools Team
- Informal or formal suspension from school

## **Steps to Address Unacceptable Conduct:**

### **Notification**

When concerns pertaining to George Bonner Elementary's Code of Conduct take place, a school administrator or teacher will inform the parent/guardian of all student(s) involved.

In the event of a serious breach of the school's Code of Conduct, school district officials, law enforcement, and/or other agencies may also be informed.

When deemed necessary, and following consultation with school district officials, the school community will be informed of serious situations and incidents.

### **Prevention of Retaliation**

George Bonner Elementary does not condone retaliation against a person who has reported a breach of the Code of Conduct. The goal is to eliminate any acts of retaliation by focusing on education, prevention, and restorative practices with the parties involved. Any acts of retaliation will be taken seriously and addressed in consultation with school district officials.

## **Student Suspension**

Suspension is one of many strategies in a complex problem-solving restorative process designed to support the student to address unacceptable conduct. Student suspension

may be employed as part of the larger intervention process, which will be educative, preventative, and restorative. A parent or guardian, and the Associate Superintendent, will always be notified by the administration in the case of a student suspension.

### **Personal Digital Devices**

Personal digital device means any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or access the internet, such as a cell phone or tablet. Students are discouraged from bringing personal electronic devices to school and are encouraged to use the time at school as an opportunity to connect with peers, experience the outdoors, and partake in healthy physical activity. To promote online safety and focused learning environments, the use of personal digital devices is restricted during school hours (8:30 am – 2:18 pm). The school is not responsible for any electronic devices that may become lost, damaged or stolen while at school.

### **Concluding Statement:**

Cowichan Valley Schools, including George Bonner Elementary, ultimately strive to educate all students to be good citizens and make good choices. When student behaviour does not align with the Code of Conduct, an educative, preventative, and restorative approach is utilized. When discipline is involved, our philosophy is to be as least punitive as possible to promote a change in student behaviour.