

# Supporting Safe & Caring Schools: An Open Letter to Parents

*When students feel welcome, supported and safe, they are more engaged in learning*

Burnaby School District is committed to ensuring our schools are safe and caring learning environments for all students and staff. As a parent or guardian you are the primary teacher in your child's life. It is essential that you are aware of our policies and practices in keeping our schools safe so that you can in turn support your child. Anti-bullying Day (February 29) provides an opportunity for us to share with you our proactive approach to keeping our schools safe.

It is important to note that name calling, putdowns, insults, and pushing or rough play are not necessarily bullying behaviours. These acts can often be part of a child's developmental process as they learn to manage emotions and frustration in social situations. However, if these problems persist, bullying behaviour can develop.

Bullying is repeated aggressive behaviour with negative intent, directed from one child to another where there is a power imbalance. Threat-making and intimidation are expressions of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. A threat can be spoken, written, symbolic or over the internet.

Often these behaviours come to the attention of school personnel because school is where children and youth are most likely to interact.

***Incidences of bullying, harassment and intimidation are rare in a school community where behavioural expectations are explicitly stated and understood.  
These reported incidences are extremely low in Burnaby schools.***

The school codes of conduct state behavioural expectations and outline age appropriate consequences for unacceptable behaviour. When unacceptable behaviours are reported, the district immediately responds by investigating the concern. A support plan is then put in place for the student harmed by these behaviours. Depending on the circumstance, the student who has displayed bullying behaviour might be referred to counselling, restorative justice practices, alternative to suspension programs, or receive a school-based or district level suspension.

***In a healthy school culture, students and adults feel a sense of belonging and relate to one another in positive, supportive ways.***

The district participates in ongoing threat and risk assessment training with our community partners - Burnaby RCMP, Ministry for Children & Family Development, Provincial Child & Youth Mental Health and other social service agencies. Together we have developed a plan for responding to all reported student behaviours that pose a potential risk to other students, staff or members of the community.

If your child informs you of any student behaviours that are of concern, we encourage you to report these to the school principal. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Burnaby's schools and for supporting us in our efforts to ensure that all our schools remain safe and caring learning environments.

Larry Hayes, Chair  
Burnaby Board of Education

Claudio Morelli, Superintendent  
Burnaby School District



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION  
PLEASE HAVE THIS TRANSLATED**

**RENSEIGNEMENTS IMPORTANTS**  
Prière de les faire traduire.

**重要資料**  
請找人為你翻譯

これはたいせつなお知らせです。  
どなたかに日本語に訳してもらってください。

**알려드립니다**  
이것을 번역해 주십시오

**CHỈ DẪN QUAN TRỌNG**  
Xin nhờ người dịch hộ

**ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ**  
ਵਿਰਧਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਕੋਲੋਂ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਉਲੱਥਾ ਕਰਵਾਓ।

**INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE**  
Busque alguien que le traduzca.

**اطلاعات مهم و سودمند**  
لطفاً از یک نفر بخواهید که برای شما ترجمه کند

**ITO AY MAHALAGANG IMPORMASYON**  
Isalin sa wikang tagalog kung hindi maintindihan

**يرجى ترجمة هذا**  
**معلومات هامة**

**ВАЖНАЯ ИНФОРМАЦИЯ**  
Переведите это, пожалуйста.

# BURNABY SCHOOL DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT

**B**urnaby School District's **Code of Conduct** has been established to maintain a safe, caring and healthy learning environment. The purpose of the **Code of Conduct** is to inform all members of the school district community of our shared obligations and responsibilities while in district facilities, while traveling to and from district facilities, and while attending any school district function at any location.

As members of the school district community, it is our responsibility to demonstrate positive conduct and refrain from unacceptable behaviours.

**All members of the school district community have an obligation to:**

- Support learning
- Promote safety
- Respect property, environment, personal space and privacy
- Model courtesy, compassion and respect

**The following behaviours are considered unacceptable:**

- Interfering with the learning and working of others
- Engaging in acts of bullying, harassment, intimidation, retaliation, discrimination and/or violence
- Being disrespectful or using threatening language or behaviours including via electronic and all forms of social networking media
- Bringing weapons, including replicas, to any district facility
- Participating in unsafe or illegal acts
- Possessing, using or distributing illegal or restricted substances

All members of the school community are expected to comply with the purpose and spirit of the BC Human Rights Code, including not engaging in discriminatory conduct on the basis of gender, race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation.

Whenever possible, incidents will be resolved by discussion, mediation and restitution. Every effort to support individuals and to determine the root causes of behaviour will be made. If the safety or educational program of others is compromised, or if there is an ongoing failure to meet the expectations of the **Code of Conduct**, a range of consequences will follow.

**All members of the Burnaby School District community have the right to be treated fairly and consistently, and should know and understand this Code of Conduct.**