

RTCS CODE OF CITIZENSHIP



Statement of Purpose

Caring, safety and **order** provide the foundation for a thriving learning environment. At Rosedale Traditional Community School we are committed to creating a safe, welcoming and dynamic learning environment. This Code of Citizenship is designed to build and sustain a school community that values and fosters respect, inclusion, fairness and equity. Therefore all members of the school community shall not discriminate against others on the basis of race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, family or marital status, physical or mental disability, age, sex or sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, 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. All reasonable steps will be taken to prevent retaliation against a student who has made a complaint of a breach in the Code of Conduct.

Mission and Vision Statement

“Rosedale Traditional Community School is a compassionate community of learners who CARE and nurture a culture of kindness and acceptance, ENGAGE in active and innovative experiences, and INSPIRE curiosity, discovery and achievement.”

CARE ~ ENGAGE ~ INSPIRE

1. CARING

A caring school is one in which members of the school community feel a sense of belonging and have opportunities to relate to one another in kind, positive and supportive ways. All aspects of school life embrace and reflect diversity. The school is an inviting place for students, staff, parents, and visitors.

Respect for Self and others

- I have the **right** to learn in a safe, caring environment and be treated with kindness and respect.
- I have the responsibility to treat all individuals with kindness and respect, regardless of their differences.
- Every person should feel valued, be treated respectfully, and be free of harassment. Therefore, I will not engage in behaviours such as rudeness, intimidation, bullying, fighting, or inappropriate physical displays of affection.

Positive, Supportive Learning Environment

- I have the **right** to a positive and supportive learning environment.
- I have the **responsibility** to demonstrate a commitment to my learning and to a positive and supportive learning environment.
- A positive, supportive learning environment is necessary for success. Therefore, I will actively engage in the learning process, come to class on time prepared to learn, and complete all class and homework assignments.

Appropriate Language

- I have the **right** to be spoken to in a respectful manner.
- I have the **responsibility** to speak politely and use language and tone of voice that is respectful to all members of the school community.
- Being able to use appropriate and respectful language is a valuable life skill. When language is offensive to others, hurt feelings may lead to further conflict. Therefore, I will not engage in name calling, yelling, swearing, or crude, rude or obscene language, whether it is spoken, written, implied or gestured.

Respect for School, Public, and Private Property

- I have the **right** to a clean and well-maintained school-learning environment.
- I have the **responsibility** to clean up after myself and respect school property, as well as the property of staff, students and the people who live in our neighbourhood.
- Taking care of the school and its surroundings demonstrates pride in the school. A clean school offers a healthy and pleasant place to learn and work. Therefore, I will use garbage cans and recycling bins appropriately. All students and staff should feel that their personal belongings are safe at school. I will respect school property and other people's belongings, and I will be accountable for any intentional damage.

Lockers

Lockers are the property of the school district and under certain circumstances may be inspected by school authorities if reasonable cause exists. Students may only use their assigned locker and will keep the combination private. Lost locks have a replacement fee of \$6.00. Students could lose the privilege of having a locker if they tamper with other people's lockers or violate our Raven's Code of Citizenship. All backpacks should remain in student lockers and do not belong in class.

Valuables

Students should not bring large amounts of money or valuable items to school. If they do, they are responsible for the safekeeping. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen articles. KEEP YOUR POSSESSIONS LOCKED UP, INCLUDING IN THE P.E. CHANGE ROOM.

#2. SAFE

A safe school feels welcoming and open and is one in which members of the school community are free of the fear of harm, including potential threats from inside or outside the school. The attitudes and actions of students, staff and parents support an environment that is resistant to disruption and intrusion, and ensures a focus on student success.

Bullying, Cyber-bullying and Misuse of Electronics

- I have the **right** to be in a learning environment that is free from bullying, harassment, or intimidation that takes place in person, online or through the use of electronic devices.
- I have the **responsibility** to treat others with respect, and use online resources and electronic devices (social networking sites, blogs, e-mail and messaging services, cameras, etc.) in an appropriate manner.
- Violence has no place at school. Intimidation or bullying in any way will not be tolerated. Therefore, I will not be involved in any form of bullying or intimidation and will report it when I see it. I will not be involved in posting photos and or derogatory messages or comments about others in any electronic forum. I will not be involved in sending inappropriate or hurtful messages to other individuals online. I will refrain from taking pictures or video of any individual at school unless I have permission to do so.

Closed Campus

- I have the **right** to be safe at school during my school day.
- I have the **responsibility** to get to school and class on time and stay on campus when I am here.
- The safety and security of students is of the utmost importance. School administration is legally responsible for student safety and whereabouts during the school day. Therefore, I must bring written permission from my parent or guardian (or have a parent speak directly to office staff) in order to leave the school grounds.

Visitors

- Parents are always welcome to visit the school. All visitors need to report to the office. The only students allowed in the building at any time are RTCS students.

Bikes, Skateboards, Scooters, etc.

- I have the **right** to be in a safe environment that does not pose threats to my physical well-being.
- I have the **responsibility** to walk my bike, carry my scooter, and/or skateboard on school property.
- The use of the above equipment or other wheeled vehicles on school property can be dangerous to the students themselves as well as others. Therefore, I will walk my bike or carry my scooter, and/or skateboard on school property during the school day.

School and Public Buses

- I have the **right** to be safe and respected while riding any bus to and from school, or when on a field trip or an extra-curricular activity.
- I have the **responsibility** to follow the school bus guidelines established by School District No. 33. I also have a responsibility to represent my school in a positive manner.
- The safety of students is a main concern. Therefore as a responsible citizen of the school I will abide by this Code of Conduct when riding a school bus. In particular, I will get on and off the bus in a safe manner, ride facing calmly forward, and follow any directions given to me by the bus driver or other adult supervisor.

Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco, Vapourizers, etc.

- I have the **right** to be in a healthy learning environment free of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and vapourizers.
- I have the **responsibility** not to be in possession of, under the influence of, or involved in providing to others: alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and vapourizers at any time at school or during any school function.
- For our own protection and the protection of others, the law forbids the use or possession of these substances by students. Therefore, I will not be in possession of, under the influence of, or involved in providing to others alcohol, drugs, tobacco, E-cigarettes or vapourizers. I understand that forbidden items include, but are not limited to: alcohol, illicit drugs as defined under the Criminal Code of Canada; unauthorized prescription drugs, and other chemical substances which impair a person's judgement and ability to participate appropriately in the learning environment established by the school.

Weapons (including replicas), Violence, or Intimidation

- I have the **right** to be in a learning environment that is free from weapons, violence (acts or threats of), bullying, cyberbullying or intimidation.
- I have the **responsibility** to not be in possession of any weapons, fireworks, or any other illegal items nor be involved in violence (acts or threats of), bullying, cyberbullying or intimidation. I have a responsibility to report to school staff if I believe there are acts of violence, threats of violence, bullying, cyberbullying, intimidation, or if there is a weapon in the school.

Weapons (including replicas), Violence, or Intimidation (continued...)

- Weapons, violence (acts or threats of), bullying, cyberbullying and intimidation will not be tolerated at school. Therefore, I will refrain from any involvement with weapons, fireworks or any other illegal items, and I will not be involved in any acts of violence, threats or intimidation. I will report violence, weapons, intimidation or threats to individuals' safety immediately to school staff.

#3. RESPECTFUL ENVIRONMENT

A respectful learning environment is created when school is orderly and members of the school community are informed about and exercise their rights and responsibilities as school citizens. Expectations about acceptable behaviour, respect and decorum are generally understood. Responses to violations are based consistently on sound principles and are appropriate to the context.

Attendance

- I have the **right** to attend school without excessive disruptions.
- I have the **responsibility** to attend all my classes and be punctual.
- Success comes through respect, responsibility, honesty, trust and fairness. The most basic level of student responsibility is attending school. Therefore, I will be present and on time to the best of my ability, and I will bring in a note from my parents/guardian if I have been sick at home. I will also sign in or out if I am late to school or leaving early.

Dress Code

RTCS requires students to wear prescribed clothing while at school. Students remain in uniform during their day at RTCS until they arrive at home at the end of the day. There are two places that students can purchase official uniform clothing: Sapphire Creative in Chilliwack and through the RTCS Athletic office. The dress code applies to all RTCS students:

STUDENTS:

- Elementary Grades (K-5) – RTCS T-Shirt: Red or Black
- Middle Grades (6-8) – RTCS Uniform Shirt
- RTCS or RAVENS Sweatshirt
- Black or beige bottoms

ATHLETIC UNIFORM 4-8 (Purchased at school):

- T-Shirt with “RAVENS” logo (grey or red)
- Black shorts with white “RAVENS” logo
- Black or grey hooded sweatshirt with “RAVENS” logo (optional)
- Black or grey sweatpants with “RAVENS” logo (optional)

CASUAL DAY/SPIRIT DAY GUIDELINES:

- Clothing must be school appropriate
- No underwear showing

Personal Electronic Devices – Middle School Students

All School District 33 Middle Schools aspire to have a positive and productive learning environment with a focus on academic achievement and appropriate socialization. It is a privilege to have cell phones at school – we desire to have students use these devices in a responsible and appropriate manner. Our classroom and school wide expectations include:

- At break and lunch periods, students are encouraged to be active and socialize with friends. Students are not permitted to use their cell phones and other devices during this time.
- Students are encouraged to leave their devices in their lockers, however if students take their cell phones/electronic devices to class they must be turned off. Teachers will collect cell phones at the beginning of class and return them at the end of class. Your child's teachers will decide if students can use them during class for educational purposes.
- Please do not text/call your child while they are in class. If you need to contact your child during instructional time, please call our office.
- For privacy considerations, the taking of pictures, videos, or recordings at school is strictly prohibited.
- Head phones/ear buds must not be worn or visible during instructional time unless the teacher has allowed them. These are not to be worn during assemblies, at break, or at lunch.

Unauthorized use of electronic devices will result in the device being turned in to the teacher and returned to the student after class or at the end of the day. For repeated offences, the device(s) will be given to the office who may return the device(s) to the student and/or contact the parents if the issue persists. Students may then be asked to turn their cell phone into the office each morning and pick it up at the end of the day or to leave it at home.

Personal Electronic Devices – Elementary School Students

If students bring electronic devices to school, they are the sole responsibility of the student. All electronic devices must be stored in student backpacks until the end of the school day. Students may use their cell phones at the end of the day. If you need to contact your student during instructional time, please call the school office.

Interventions and Consequences

Regardless of the nature or location of the misconduct, or the staff member involved, the following is a range of interventions and consequences that will be used at Rosedale Traditional:

1. On-the-spot conference or redirection.
2. Follow-up meeting between the student(s) and staff member(s).
3. Contact with parent or guardian.
4. Restitution, including a logical remedy for the problem (e.g. paying for damage willfully caused) and supporting anyone who is a victim or who suffers as a result of the student's actions.
5. Supportive intervention and/or service to school.

Interventions and Consequences (continued....)

6. Additional time for the student with the teacher or office (detention).
7. Mediation or restorative practice.
8. Referral to counselling, administration, and/or community support services.
9. Serious or repeated indiscretions are reported directly to the vice-principal or principal.

Administration response may include steps 1–9 above, but response to serious or repeated indiscretions will be consistent with school and district policy. Where students refuse to cooperate with staff directions and school expectations, as repeat offenders or through single incidents, parents will be involved and a suspension may result. As well, suspensions will be strongly considered and parents and police will be involved where chargeable offences occur (fighting, threatening, assault, willful damage, possession or use of weapons, theft, tampering with fire alarms, possession or influence of drugs or alcohol). Special consideration may apply to students with special needs.