QUESNEL JUNIOR SCHOOL

Learner Code of Conduct

Revised August 29th, 2025

At Quesnel Junior School, we recognize that each learner and situation is unique and we will always strive to ensure that our school is a safe, caring and orderly environment in which to learn and work. As learners age and mature, the expectations for acceptable behaviour will increase accordingly. The code of conduct at QJS is based on the following balance of rights and responsibilities.

Rights	Responsibilities
Learners have the right to learn.	**Learners have the responsibility to actively participate and to be responsible learners.** Some examples include: • attending classes consistently and being on time • coming prepared for class and being ready to learn • putting forth a strong effort and participating actively • staying focused and not distracting others • completing assignments in a timely manner • leaving communication devices in lockers during learning times
Learners have the right to be respected.	**Learners have the responsibility to respect others (not to bully, tease, pick on, or harass others).** Some examples include: • using respectful language at all times • being polite and listening actively to others • being welcoming, kind and inclusive of others • being accepting and respectful of differences • being honest and trustworthy • being a helpful bystander, not a hurtful bystander • promptly reporting incidents of bullying, harassment or intimidation to a trusting adult
Learners have the right to be safe.	**Learners have the responsibility to behave in a safe manner and to protect the safety of others.** Some examples include: • scented products at home (we are a scent free school) • remaining on campus unless being picked up by family and signing out • walking calmly; no running in the hallways • staying in the designated areas • playing safely • reporting dangerous situations to staff, including possession of banned items (ex. vapes, drugs, alcohol, weapons)
Learners have the right to privacy and security of personal space.	**Learners have the responsibility to respect the property and privacy of others (learners, staff and community).** Some examples include: • not touching other people's property without permission • respecting personal boundaries • only taking and sharing digital images and/or videos respectfully and with proper permission

Learners have the right to use learning equipment and property.	**Learners have the responsibility to use the equipment and property according to all applicable rules, and with care and respect.** Some examples include: • cleaning up properly including garbage and recycling • asking before borrowing items • returning materials promptly and neatly • showing respect for spaces, furniture and equipment

WHO DOES THIS CODE OF CONDUCT APPLY TO?

In reference to Board Policies 305 and 306 the purpose of the Quesnel Junior School Code of Conduct is to maintain a safe, caring and orderly environment for learners and their learning. The code of conduct applies to any learner:

- On school property or the environs of the school
- In attendance at school or any school-sponsored activity
- Whose behaviour at any time or place, including to and from school as well as online, has a negative effect on the school environment and/or learning

BC HUMAN RIGHTS CODE

Quesnel Junior School promotes the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law. All participants in school business, activities or events shall conduct themselves in a manner that does not contravene the BC Human Rights Code and its basic principles of respect and fairness. No person shall discriminate against another based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, physical and mental disability, gender, gender identity and expression or sexual orientation within the school environment or through the school system and its related function through publication, or in accommodation, service or facility. The school will treat seriously any behavior that contravenes the grounds set out in the BC Human Rights Code.

VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

We recognize that most members of our school community conduct themselves in a positive and responsible manner. Violations of the Code of Conduct will occur, and when these infrequent violations occur, parent/guardians will be contacted. Violations of the Code of Conduct that are minor are dealt with in a variety of ways alongside learners, school staff and parents.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

In the event of a violation of our Code of Conduct, the staff will endeavour to act consistently by:

- communicating with all individuals involved;
- determining all of the facts; and
- treating learners with fairness and respect.

The staff recognizes that each incident must be dealt with on an individual basis, dependent upon severity, circumstance and history. Every effort will be made to match the situation and the consequence to the learner through the use of a progressive disciplinary model. As learners mature in middle school, there is a higher expectation of responsibility, therefore consequences for violations of the code of conduct may vary from grades 8 to 9. Whenever possible, the learner, with the assistance of the administrator, teacher, behaviour intervention teacher, counsellor, and/or parent/guardian, will be involved in solving the problem.

Where appropriate, special consideration may apply to Quesnel Junior School learners with exceptional educational needs who violate the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct (including consequences) will be applied to them in a manner that reflects their intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural abilities.

OFFENCES AND POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES

Minor violations of the Code of Conduct are dealt with first at the classroom level in a variety of ways. The goal is for learners to understand the mistake in order to be successful within the school community. Solutions can be found using collaborative problem solving, detentions, meetings with learners, staff, and parents, school service and other consequences that are intended to be restorative in nature, leading to the development of more positive behaviour, and allowing learners to make amends for their misbehaviour.

More serious violations of the Code of Conduct (detailed below) may lead to a definite/indefinite in/out of school suspension, a Restorative Justice referral and/or RCMP involvement. The following are examples of major and serious violations of the Code of Conduct and do not constitute a complete list of possible offences:

Examples of Serious Offences	Possible Consequences
• Repeated minor violations of the code of conduct • Willful disobedience (defiance) • Power struggle with an adult • Inappropriate touching or language • Use or spraying of scented products	• Collaborative problem solving with staff, learner, parents • School/community service • Behavioural contracts • Behavioural and/or counselling support/assignments
• Leaving our closed campus without family pick-up • Tampering with the property of others • Pain or injury to another person (teasing, tripping, kicking, intimidation, pushing, swearing) • Lying • Inappropriate use of electronic and social media communication as outlined in Policy 305	• Disciplinary work station - detention • In-school/out-of-school definite suspension
Examples of Major Offences	**Possible Consequences**
• Repeated major offenses • Ongoing truancy • Use/possession of vape, cigarettes, alcohol or drugs • Use/possession of weapons • Uttering threats • Repeated use of scented products • Bullying/cyberbullying • Sexual harassment • Vandalism • Violent behaviour (Assault, fighting) • Theft • Bomb threat	• Any serious offence consequences (see above) • In-school/out-of-school definite suspension • Indefinite suspension • Legal intervention (RCMP, Restorative Justice)

CLOSED CAMPUS

As with many middle schools around the province, Quesnel Junior School is a closed campus. Once learners have arrived at QJS they are expected to remain on campus for the remainder of the day. Learners are not permitted to go to surrounding properties, stores, etc. under any circumstance.

Learners who go home for lunch (i.e. who live within a reasonable walking distance to the school) are required to have a signed parent/guardian permission form completed, on file, with our clerical staff in the Welcome Centre each year, and are required to sign in and out of the school each day during the lunch break. It is expected that learners signed out for lunch go home and back only.

SCHOOL VISITORS

All visitors to the school must report to the Welcome Centre and state their reason for visiting the school. Visitors should not be in the halls unsupervised without express permission from the school administration for safety reasons. Learners are asked to make prior arrangements to meet their friends who do not attend QJS off the school property after school hours; learners from other schools are not permitted to be on QJS property, just as QJS learners are not to be on other school properties.

We do not allow for friends or family (ie. siblings or cousins) of learners to "visit for the day" and attend classes with learners. This practice can very disruptive to learning environments and can become a serious supervision issue.

RESPONSIBLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY DEVICES, SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY, AND DISTRICT NETWORKS

The purpose of using network services and digital technologies while in educational settings is to engage in responsible educational activities. Therefore, the use of personal technology devices, school technologies, and district network services requires students to abide by the school's Code of Conduct and procedures.

Some examples of responsible use with district and personal devices include the following:

- Act responsibly when accessing technology and district networks, including the internet in their school.
- Use technology equipment and property according to all applicable rules and with care and respect.
- Engage in appropriate use as directed by school staff.

- Respect the safety and privacy of self and others and do not provide personal contact information about themselves or other students.
- Treat others with respect and kindness when using digital devices and network services.
- Respect resource limits of the network services and do not engage in activities that jeopardize the integrity, security or performance of the network.
- Understand the importance of privacy and security and take all reasonable precautions when accessing network services and digital technologies.

The use of Personal Technology Devices, School Technology, and District Networks is a privilege and usage may be revoked at any time for inappropriate conduct. Use of network services and digital technologies which violate the terms outlined in policy and/or the School's Code of Conduct may result in serious consequences including definite or indefinite suspensions and/or police intervention.

Learners must leave their cellphones and communication devices securely in their lockers during instructional and transition times (no cell phones/devices between first bell and lunch bell or end of lunch and dismissal). At lunch, we strongly encourage children to be active, play together, and leave cell phones in lockers at those times as well. If at any point, learners' use of technology interferes with or distracts from the learning of others or the safety and well-being of others, schools may intervene and issue consequences in relation to the outlined school code of conduct and district policy. Schools will also not be held responsible for any misplaced, lost, stolen, or broken items brought to school by learners.

DRESS CODE

The way we dress can communicate the respect we show to others and to the school as a place for working and learning. The purpose of the QJS dress code is to clarify what clothing is reasonable for learners and staff to provide a positive school climate. Learners are asked to avoid styles which promote, imitate or celebrate violence, intimidation, racism, sexism, hatred towards others, gang association, sex or alcohol/drug use. If clothing is determined by staff to be inappropriate, families will be contacted and learners may be asked to change. This expectation applies to all learners. Footwear must be worn at all times for health and safety reasons.

PERSONAL PROPERTY/LOCKERS

At the beginning of the year, each learner will be assigned a school lock and locker. Personal locks are not to be used. Learner locks and lockers remain the property of the school and the school retains access to lockers throughout the year; administration and staff may open and search when necessary. In order to ensure

learners' belongings are safe, lock combinations and lockers must not be shared between learners.

Learners should not bring unnecessary items, valuables, or large amounts of money to school. The school cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items. Learners are urged to safeguard their valuables/backpacks/property by storing items in their lockers. Items of value should never be left unlocked in the gym change rooms.

BIKES/SCOOTERS/SKATEBOARDS

Learners are not to be on their skateboards, scooters, or bikes on QJS property; continued issues that arise because of improper use may result in a learner being asked to not bring their skateboard, scooter, or bike to school permanently. While travelling to and from school, we recommend the use of appropriate protective equipment including a helmet. We ask that parents/guardians to support us in having ongoing discussions with your child about traffic safety. E-bikes and e-scooters are not allowed to be used as a mode of transportation to school as they are illegal for this age group.

Scooters and bikes should be secured with a good lock in the racks located at the front of the school (any bike locks can work, and a simple padlock for scooters). Skateboards should be stored securely in lockers. We do not have alternative storage inside the building for bikes, scooters, or skateboards (not in classrooms, not in storage rooms, not carried from room to room throughout the day). These places are not necessarily secure, and we know that these items are costly for families to replace - as stated in the previous section on personal property, the school cannot be responsible for lost, misplaced, or stolen property stored in various unsecured areas around the school.

Electric scooters are not a legal method of transportation for children aged under 16, therefore are not permitted.

APPEAL POLICY: Bylaw 1 Appeals; under section 11 of the School Act

Parents and guardians of a learner who is entitled to an educational program in Quesnel School District schools may appeal the decision of an employee of the school board which significantly affects the education, health or safety of the learner.

STEP 1: Parent meets with employee (i.e. teacher)

STEP 2: Parent meets with Principal or designate

STEP 3: Parent meets with the Superintendent or designate

If at this point the issue remains unsolved and the parent/guardian is not satisfied, the parent/guardian has a right to a final appeal to the Board. This district policy is in place to help ensure that effective communication is part of the problem-solving process. Details of this process are available at the school and on the district website, Bylaw 1 Appeals or linked https://bcsd28.civicweb.net/FileStorage/32381D1D4736444B9372E58A2CB42F3D-ByLaw%20No.%201%20Appeals%20(2007).pdf here.