



# WILLIAM S. PATTERSON SCHOOL

## CODE OF CONDUCT

### Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to establish and maintain a safe, caring and orderly environment for purposeful learning at Wm. S. Patterson School. All members of the school community, who we believe have primary responsibility for their actions, are expected to follow the Code of Conduct. We encourage, teach and model self-control and self-discipline.

### School Community Responsibilities

The following guidelines will help to ensure that all members of the community are able to learn, share ideas and be heard:

- Each individual at Wm. S. Patterson School has the right to enjoy a safe and nurturing learning environment. It is the responsibility of each member of the community to maintain that safe environment.
- Each individual at Wm. S. Patterson School has the right to be respected. Each individual has the responsibility to respect themselves and others.
- Each individual at Wm. S. Patterson School has the right to a safe and clean environment. Each individual has the responsibility to respect both school and personal property.

### Conduct Expectations

1. Students at Wm. S. Patterson School must:
  - Be safe
  - Be respectful
  - Be responsible
  - Follow directions the first time
2. Students are reminded that any adult in the school has the responsibility to correct inappropriate behaviour.
3. Students will follow the Wm. S. Patterson School and Lord Selkirk School Division Code of Conduct.
4. Wherever possible, students are encouraged and expected to speak up and solve issues of conflict themselves (adults will support student problem solving as needed). When another student says or does something to them (or another student) that is not right, students are expected to say 'stop'. If the other student does not stop, then the student needs to ask an adult for help.

### *Acceptable Conduct*

- Acceptable conduct is conduct that:
  - Respects self, others and the school
  - Helps to make the school a safe, caring and orderly place
  - Engages in purposeful learning activities in a timely manner
  - Acts in a manner that brings credit to the school community
  - Informs a staff member, in a timely manner, of incidents of bullying, harassment and/or intimidation
  - Adheres to school/School Board policy respecting the appropriate use of internet, all forms of social media, digital cameras, cell phones and other electronic and personal communication devices.

### *Unacceptable Conduct*

- Unacceptable conduct can include the following (but this is not an all-inclusive list of unacceptable behaviours). Unacceptable behaviours can include:
  - Behaviours that:
    - Interfere with the learning of others
    - Interfere with an orderly environment
    - Create an unsafe environment
  - Acts of:
    - Bullying, harassment and/or intimidation, including electronic media (Cyberbullying)
    - Physical, sexual, psychological, verbal abuse in person or through other media
    - Discrimination as outlined in *sub-section 9(2) of The Human Rights Code*
    - Using, possessing, or under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs on school property, or at school sponsored events
    - Retribution against a person who has reported incidents

*All students have the right to make a complaint against another student without experiencing retaliation from other students. All reasonable steps will be taken to prevent retaliation against a student who has made a complaint as a result of a breach of this Code of Conduct.*

- Illegal acts that will not be tolerated on school property:
  - Possession or use of weapons
  - Theft of, or damage to property
  - Gang involvement or gang related incidents

*Disciplinary action is considerate of students with special needs if these students are unable to fully comply with the Code of Conduct due to a diagnosed disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature.*

## Consequences

### *Rising Expectations*

- At Wm. S. Patterson School, we believe that as children become older, more mature and move through the successive grades, we expect increasing responsibility and self-discipline from them. Consequences for inappropriate behaviour will increase with age and development of understanding.

### *Minor Offences*

- These will be handled 'on the spot' by any staff member. Students will be made aware of how their actions were inappropriate, discuss how a better choice could have been made, and make it right.

### *Major Offences*

- Major offences fall into the following categories:
  - Conduct which interferes with or threatens the orderly functioning of the school or adversely affects the well-being of others
  - Conduct injurious to the safety and/or dignity of students or staff

*Some examples of major offences are: physical abuse, open opposition to authority, stealing, vandalism, and continuous disruptive behaviour. The severity and frequency of unacceptable conduct, as well as the age and maturity of students, is considered in determining appropriate disciplinary action.*

- Responses to unacceptable conduct are consistent and fair and appropriate to the offense
- Disciplinary action, wherever possible, is preventative, an opportunity to teach and learn, and follows the principles of Restorative Action
- Students, as often as possible, are encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences
- For major offences, consequences may involve the following:
  - In school suspension
  - Out of school suspension
  - A Board of Review

## Notification

Most issues arising from classroom behaviour are handled by the classroom teacher. Issues are referred to administration after consultation with the parent has not succeeded in altering the behaviour. Administration will advise parties of serious or continuous breaches of the Code of Conduct. For example:

- Parents of student offences – in every instance
- Parents of the student victim – in every instance
- School district officials – as required by School Board Policy
- Police and/or other agencies – as required by law
- All parents – when deemed to be important to reassure members of the school community that school officials are aware of a serious situation or incident and are taking appropriate action to address it

## Appeal Process

### *Disciplinary Decisions*

- All appeals must follow the School Board's established appeal process.
  - Teacher who made the disciplinary decision
  - School Principal
  - Superintendent of Schools
  - School Board
- Exceptions are suspensions in excess of five days and expulsions; in these cases, the appeal goes directly to the School Board.

*Please visit The Lord Selkirk School Division website for information about Code of Conduct and Policies.*