

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Statement of Purpose

The code of conduct describes school expectations and acceptable student behavior as directed by the School Act 85(2)(c). It is derived from the Ministry of Education's goal for Human and Social development, and is designed to promote a safe, caring and orderly school for the purpose of learning.

Pleasant Valley Secondary School (PVSS) supports the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law – prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation.

Beliefs

This code of conduct is based on supporting relationships through the principles of respect, rights, and responsibilities.

- Fostering **RESPECT** for the rights, property and safety of themselves and others.
- Honoring the **RIGHTS** of others – through the process of learning and demonstrating appropriate behaviours.
- Assuming **RESPONSIBILITY** for one's own behaviour in order to sustain a safe and productive learning environment.

Application

Student conduct at PVSS will operate within the framework of the School District Code of Conduct (Policy #1010, Regulation #1010.01R).

PVSS students are ambassadors of the school while at school (including lunches, study blocks, travel to and from school), and while attending school related functions such as field trips, dances, and sporting events,

*The principal's and the district's authority may also extend beyond these times when the behaviour of a student off school premises or after school hours adversely affects the operation of any school in the district. (For example, **on-line communication**, violent altercations, etc.)

The North Okanagan/Shuswap School District Code of Conduct (Regulation #1010.01R)

Students are expected to become responsible citizens as they learn the connection between their rights and their responsibilities. They are also to understand that school is a public place where their actions can affect others. PVSS and the Board of Education expects students to conduct themselves in the following manner:

Be Respectful to Self <i>Care about your learning, yourself, and your safety.</i>	Be Respectful to Others <i>Be considerate of others' feelings, belongings, and safety.</i>	Be Respectful to Property <i>Care about your school and environment.</i>
▪ Value relationships and respect your culture and that of others ▪ Make strong decisions ▪ Be self-determined to do your personal best ▪ Be inclusive ▪ Self-regulate ▪ Value diversity ▪ Participate in challenging times	▪ Solve problems in a peaceful way ▪ Treat others with respect ▪ Value diversity ▪ Connect with others positively ▪ Build strong relationships ▪ Report dangerous situations to staff ▪ Report any bullying or harassment of other students to any staff member	▪ Contribute to your school community and care for the school environment ▪ Dispose of garbage, recycling, and compost properly ▪ Take care of and be responsible with school resources ▪ Treat school equipment and spaces appropriately ▪ Walk calmly in the hallways

Please try to make good choices. 'Good choices' means avoiding inappropriate or bottom line behaviour.

Inappropriate behaviour includes:	Serious Misconduct (Bottom line behaviour) includes:
▪ Bullying (physical, verbal, social, or online) ▪ Harassment or marginalization (isolation, ignoring) ▪ Discrimination contrary to the BC Human Rights Code ▪ Rudeness, swearing, dishonesty ▪ Play fighting ▪ Lack of respect for others, teasing, taunting, harassing ▪ Throwing objects (rocks, sticks, snowballs, etc.) ▪ Disrespectful behaviour such as talking back ▪ Running in the halls, littering, horseplay ▪ Academic dishonesty (cheating/plagiarism)	▪ Bullying (including cyberbullying); ▪ Verbal or physical harassment, disrespect, intimidation, or threats; ▪ Discrimination contrary to the BC Human Rights Code; ▪ Threats ▪ Physical violence or fighting or direct verbal violence ▪ The possession, use and/or trafficking of illegal or restricted drugs, alcohol, or other harmful substances; ▪ The possession and/or use of weapons; ▪ The possession and/or use of incendiary devices; ▪ Smoking and/or the use of tobacco or vaping products; ▪ Stealing ▪ Vandalism ▪ Defiant or persistent defiant behaviour ▪ Behaviour that puts self or others at risk of harm ▪ Retaliating against a person who has reported incidents of unacceptable behaviour described above.

Prevention

Keeping our school and the members of our school community safe requires the cooperation of all its members. Students are expected to tell an adult when they are aware of any actions or situations that could harm individuals or the school as a whole (e.g. fights, bullying, social media posts, etc.).

Support and Consequences

We believe that discipline is intended to promote the development of pro-social behaviours. In this process, it will be necessary to draw on consequences to enhance student learning. Consequences will be applied in a fair and consistent manner, respecting individual rights, responsibilities, age, and maturity. The use of consequences will be progressive in nature and will be determined based on the severity of the incident, the age of the student and the history of progressive discipline for the student. Special consideration may apply to students with diverse learning needs.

Consequences for Serious Misconduct

Serious misconduct such as the examples outlined above are unacceptable in and around the school. Consequences such as being sent home, parent meetings, in-school suspensions, out-of-school suspensions and even district hearings occur when there is serious misconduct.

Notification

When there is a breach of school Code of Conduct, school officials have the responsibility to advise the following:

- Applicable school personnel
- Parents of offenders, victims
- School district officials as required by school district policy
- Police and/or other agencies, as required by law

Guests

All guests to PVSS must be pre-approved, in advance, by school administration. In all instances, host students and their parents are responsible for all actions of their guests.

Bus Expectations and Procedures

All school expectations apply when travelling on busses. Bus transportation is a privilege and ensuring a safe and pleasant ride for everyone is essential. The bus driver is fully in charge of his/her bus.

Bus memos are given to students as warnings for inappropriate behavior. Students may not take the bus again until the memo is signed by their parent/guardian. A bus letter suspends bus privileges until a meeting convened by the school and attended by the student, his/her parent/guardian and the district Manager of Safety and Transportation, resolves the issue.

Student Parking

Student parking at PVSS is a privilege provided to students who are able to follow our school safety expectations. Please note that ALL parking is “first come, first serve” and there are no assigned parking spots.

- Students park at their own risk as SD 83 and PVSS are not responsible for any damage to vehicles.
- Students must park in the student parking lot and not in staff or visitor areas. Improperly parked vehicles may be towed at the owner’s expense.
- Drivers must abide by all applicable laws AND the PVSS student code of conduct.
- Students will not litter or leave a mess in the parking lot.
- Students will not “hang-out” at their car during instructional time.
- Students will not play loud music or honk their horn in a manner that could disturb our neighbours.

Clear and Reasonable Requests

To assist in maintaining an orderly, safe and effective learning environment, students are expected to follow the directions of all school district staff unless the directions put the students’ safety at risk.

Students who have concerns about the directions they have received should immediately approach an administrator for clarification. Refusal to follow the clear and reasonable requests of a staff member could result in a suspension out of school.

Attendance Matters! (Attendance and Lates) - Be responsible! Be considerate! Be on time!

Tardiness

Punctuality is an important work habit to be developed at school. Being late affects your own learning and creates a disruption for others. If you are late to any class, then you are subject to the consequences set by your teacher. Regular tardiness may be referred to administration.

Absences

Regular attendance is a key to academic success. If you will be away, then you must get your absence CLEARED. Follow the procedure below:

Your parent/guardian should call (250-546-3114) before 9 AM when you will be away. Your job is to remind them to do this. This will clear your absence. Calls made before 8 AM will be handled by the school’s answering machine, which is fine.

If a call to the school has not been made on the day of your absence, please have your parent/guardian call the office.

Truancy

School staff gladly takes on the work caused by students’ absences for illness, family emergencies and other acceptable reasons that cannot be avoided. Truancy refers to avoidable and unpermitted absences (e.g. skipping). Teachers and the administration will work collaboratively to deal with “truant” students. Consequences will vary according to the case [i.e. in-school suspension, parent meetings, ineligibility for extracurricular activities (i.e. dances, sports...)]. In addition, at their teacher’s discretion, students must make up the work they missed on their own time (lunch, before or after school).

Family Holidays

We respect family decisions to take holidays that suit their situation. However, if you do decide to go on holidays during regular school time, we ask that you provide as much notice as possible to each teacher (a note or email to the teaching staff would be helpful). Teachers will provide any missed work, requiring completion, upon the student's return. It is the student's responsibility to catch up on missing learning activities.

Student Technology in the Classroom

At PVSS, personal digital devices (cell phones, etc.) are not permitted for use during instructional time unless the class is explicitly invited to do so by the classroom teacher. This is consistent with provincial ministerial order 89/2024, SD 83 Policy 122, and SD 83 AP 310. If students choose to bring their personal digital devices to school, we ask that they keep it in their locker or in their backpack during instructional time on silent/or turned off.

Students are prohibited from taking pictures or making recordings of their peers or school staff, without their prior consent and to protect privacy, students must not use digital devices in settings such as, but not limited to, change rooms, washrooms, or private counselling rooms.

Inappropriate Use of Student Technology in the Classroom

The following escalating consequences will be implemented when students do not comply:

1. The teacher will provide a verbal reminder of the school rules and expectations;
2. The teacher will confiscate the device and return it to the student at the end of class;
3. The teacher will confiscate the device and turn it over to an administrator who will return it to the student at the end of the day;
4. The teacher will confiscate the device and turn it over to an administrator who will return it to the student's parent(s) after meeting with the parent(s).

The decision of when to escalate to the third consequence will be made by the **teacher**. The decision of when to escalate to the fourth consequence will be made by an **administrator**.

School Search & Seizure Policy

Student and vehicle searches may be made based on reasonable suspicions of a violation of school rules and/or law. A search is justified on the reasonable scope and suspicions of a judicious parent at its inception. Contraband and other property unauthorized to be on school property or at school sponsored activities will be seized for evidentiary purposes in a School/District/Legal hearing. Return of the property may be made to the parents/guardians of the student. Any illegal contraband or other property will be turned over to the RCMP as appropriate.

Lockers & School Property

Lockers are the property of the school and are assigned to the students for school use. Students hold neither expectation of privacy in their lockers nor any other school property. Students leave articles of value in lockers at their own risk. School officials have the authority to search all school property (including lockers) at any time without notice, and to seize any property prohibited by law or school policy.

Student Threat Assessment Protocol: FAIR NOTICE

What behaviours initiate a student threat assessment?

A student threat assessment will be initiated when behaviours include, but are not limited to, serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill, verbal/written threats to harm/kill others, internet website/social media threats to harm/kill others, possession of weapons (including replicas), bomb threats and fire setting.

Duty to report

To keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents, students and community members must report all threat-related behaviours.

What is a threat?

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the internet or made by gesture. Threats must be taken seriously, investigated and responded to.

What is a Threat Assessment Team?

Each school has a Threat Assessment Team which is multi-disciplinary. The team may include principal, vice-principal, district resource counsellor, school counsellor and police.

What is the purpose of a student threat assessment?

- The purposes of a student threat assessment are:
- To ensure the safety of students, staff, parents and others.
- To ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat.
- To understand factors contributing to the threat makers' behavior.
- To be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker.
- To promote the emotional and physical safety of all.

What happens in a student threat assessment?

All threat making behavior by a student shall be reported to the principal who will activate the protocol for the initial response. Once the team has been activated, interviews may be held with the student(s), the threat maker, parents and staff to determine the level of risk and develop an appropriate response to the incident.

Intervention plans will be developed and shared with parents, staff and students as required.

Can I refuse to participate in a threat assessment process?

It is important for all parties to engage in the process. However, if for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process by the threat maker or parent/guardian, the threat assessment process will continue in order to promote a safe and caring environment for all.

(This Fair Notice page is taken from Safer Schools Together)