

CODE OF CONDUCT

Ladysmith Secondary School strives to develop a safe, caring, inclusive and welcoming environment that promotes the rights and responsibilities of all who learn and work together.

Reference to the BC Human Rights Code

The **BC Human Rights Code** states that three of its purposes are to:

- “(a) foster a society in British Columbia in which there are no impediments to full and free participation in economic social political and cultural life of British Columbia
- (b) promote a climate of understanding and mutual respect where all are equal in dignity and rights.
- (c) provide a **means of redress** for those persons who are discriminated against contrary to this Code.”

It further states 8.1 (b) a person must not “discriminate against a person or class of persons regarding any accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public because of the race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age of that person or class of persons.”

NLPS Inclusion Policy states that all members of our school community “have the right to expect that policies, procedures, programs and communications are inclusive and respectful.”

Administrative Procedures that support the school Code of Conduct include:

- AP 312 – Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying and Discrimination
- AP 344 – Code of Conduct
- AP 345 – Student Suspension
- AP 347 – Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- AP 250 – Honouring Diversity and Challenging Racism

Acceptable Conduct

A student who attends Ladysmith Secondary School will:

- Accept responsibility for one’s own learning and actions.
- Be respectful of self, others and school property.
- Accept academic responsibilities seriously and work to the best of their ability.
- Be considerate of others, so that all can learn, work, and feel safe while enjoying the school facilities and community without disruption.
- Dress in a manner that reflects purpose, decorum and cultural propriety. Student dress must conform to the school Code of Conduct requirements for the intended activity. Clothing must not promote nor reference alcohol, drugs, offensive images or language, or promote discrimination.
- Follow the reasonable directions given by staff.
- Help to make the school a safe, orderly and caring place and take pride in our school and community.
- Act as responsible members of the school neighborhood by being courteous to people in the area, refraining from disturbing their daily activities, and respecting their property.
- Demonstrate the highest standards of conduct, personal responsibility and good judgement when involved in school sponsored events.
- Report to an adult, in a timely manner, all incidents of bullying, harassment or intimidation and illegal activities.

Unacceptable Conduct

The following points are only examples of unacceptable behaviour and is not an all-inclusive list.

- Interfere with learning - yours or others (truancy, cell phone usage during class time, horseplay).

- Plagiarize (copy) electronic or print media or other students' work.
- Bully, harass, intimidate, or be racially, ethically, or sexually prejudiced – including doing so online or using an electronic device.
- Smoke on school property or within sight of the school (Vaporisers and E-cigarettes are prohibited).
- Participate in physical violence or in promoting violence.
- Be in possession of, be under the influence of, smell of, be in the presence of, or distribute illegal or restricted substances. (e.g., alcohol, drugs).
- Be in possession of weapons or replica weapons (e.g., knives, slingshots, pellet or other guns).
- Damage property (e.g., litter, mischief, graffiti).
- Creates unsafe learning and/or working conditions.
- Participate in theft or knowingly receive stolen property.
- Be in possession of or use of firecrackers/fireworks.
- Use of scooters, rollerblades, skateboards, etc. on school grounds.

Rising Expectations

Ladysmith Secondary School staff use the LSS Behaviour Matrix to teach students appropriate social behaviour. As students become older, more mature and move through successive grades it is expected that:

- They increase personal and social responsibility and self-discipline.
- There are increased consequences for inappropriate behaviour and violations of the LSS Code of Conduct.

Consequences

- Students, as often as possible, are encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences for violations of the established code of conduct.
- Responses to unacceptable conduct are consistent and fair and may include student, staff and parents.
- Disciplinary action, wherever possible, is preventative and restorative, rather than punitive.

The school will recognize all individual student and unique circumstances when considering consequences for students.

Student Suspension

Discipline measures used with students should be viewed in the context of helping students achieve intellectual and social development. The purpose of suspension, or any other discipline strategy, should be to meet these provincial goals and to develop self-reliant adults. Used judiciously, suspension can have positive effect, including:

- Ensuring safety for everyone in the school community
- Assigning clear consequences for a range of serious breaches of code of conduct
- Providing the time for planning support for behaviour change
- Promoting collaboration among family, school, and other community services to solve problems

To be equitable, consequences may vary from student to student where the misconduct appears to be similar. Interventions must be appropriate to the student's age, maturity, needs, exceptionalities, extenuating circumstances and the nature of previous intervention taken in consideration of the needs of the school.

Refer to **AP 344 Student Suspension**

Notification

School administration may advise other parties or agencies of serious breaches of conduct depending on the severity and/or frequency of misconducts and the impact on others and/or the school community. Illegal acts will be reported to the RCMP and/or District Administration to develop a safety plan that will include the components of education, prevention and restorative action.

Retaliation Prevention

No student, school employee, parent or volunteer may engage in reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness, or other person who brings forward information about an act of harassment, intimidation, bullying, prejudice or

discrimination. Reprisal or retaliation is prohibited and will result, where appropriate, in discipline and/or in the filing of a complaint with other appropriate authorities.

Attendance and Punctuality

Students are expected to attend classes regularly. Attendance is recording during the first 20 minutes of class through an electronic system. Any student late after this time will be recorded as absent. If a parent has notified the school either by a note or by a phone call, the students will be excused. If not, they will be entered as un-excused in the system. A computerized attendance program will phone all unexcused absent students nightly. Occasionally, students need to be excused from school during the day for appointments or personal reasons. In most cases, permission to leave school must be obtained through the office by either a note or a phone call from parent/guardian.

Student Visitors

Any visitors to LSS must enter the front door and report to the office. School administration will determine the appropriateness of visitation at that time.