
FVSD Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning and Working Environments

Purpose

Our mission “Our Children, Our Students, Our Future” will establish and maintain a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment for all students, staff and guests.

The Fort Vermilion School Division is committed to supporting all students in attaining the goals contained in the Ministerial Order on Student Learning. All students will have access to meaningful and relevant learning experiences within welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments. We strive to ensure all students are accepted and have a sense of belonging within their classrooms and school community.

Statement Regarding the Alberta Human Rights Act

WHEREAS the Fort Vermilion School Division affirms the rights, as provided for in the *Alberta Human Rights Act* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, of each staff member employed by the School Authority and each student enrolled in a school operated by the FVSD.

THEREFORE discrimination against staff members or students on any of the prohibited grounds in Section 4 of the *Alberta Human Rights Act* or the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* is unacceptable behaviour.

Examples of Acceptable Behaviour

- Respect yourself and the rights of others in the learning environment.
- Make sure your conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects the diversity and fosters a sense of belonging of others in your learning environment.
- Refrain from, refuse to tolerate, and report bullying or bullying behaviour, even if it happens outside of the school or school hours or electronically.
- Inform an adult you trust in a timely manner of incidents of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, intimidation or other safety concerns in the learning environment.
- Act in ways that honours and appropriately represents you and your school.
- Attend school regularly and punctually.
- Be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue your education.
- Know and comply with the rules of your school.
- Cooperate with all school staff.
- Be accountable for your behaviour to your teachers and other school staff.
- Contribute positively to your school and your community.

Examples of Unacceptable Behaviour

- Behaviours that interfere with the learning of others and/or the school environment or that create unsafe conditions.
- Non-compliance to school staff instruction and direction.
- Acts of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, or intimidation.
- Inappropriate use of personal technology devices.
- Physical violence.
- Retribution against any person in the school who has intervened to prevent or report bullying or any other incident or safety concern.
- Illegal activity such as:
 - possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances,
 - possession or use of weapons, or
 - theft or damage to property.

Location and time of unacceptable behavior includes:

- On school property at any time.
- During school hours.
- When using personal technology devices.
- At any time and at any place during activities associated with the school (e.g. during field trips or extracurricular activities).
- During transportation arranged by the school division.
- At any time or place, provided school administration deems the behaviour or incident to be detrimental to the school or its students and staff.

Consequences of Unacceptable Behaviour

- Consequences will range from in-class consequences administered by a school staff member to suspension administered by the school principal. Consequences might include expulsion recommended by the school principal and authorized by the Board of Trustees.
- Consequences will take into account the nature of the unacceptable behaviour, the student's age, maturity, and individual circumstances.
- Any special needs that the student has will be considered when applying consequences.
- Supports will be provided to students impacted by inappropriate behaviour and to those students who engage in inappropriate behaviour.
- Consequences will be guided by best practice and monitored by the school principal.
- All suspensions and expulsions will adhere to parameters outlined in the School Act.

School-Based Student Conduct Expectations

- All schools will develop and communicate a Student Code of Conduct that operates within the FVSD Student Code of Conduct principles.
- All school-level and classroom-level expectations of behaviour and consequences will correlate with the FVSD Student Code of Conduct principles and will be age/grade appropriate.

-
-
- All schools will develop guidelines within their staff handbook that explain student management procedures within the school.
 - All schools will incorporate strategies for teaching, supporting and reinforcing positive behaviour. *Supporting Positive Behaviour in Alberta Schools* is a recommended resource.

Procedures of Communication

- At all times when it is felt a student is at risk of harm to themselves, others, or the school environment the student's parents will be contacted.
- At all times when it is felt a student is at risk of harm to themselves, others, or the school environment FVSD District Office will be contacted.
- The FVSD Student Code of Conduct will be published on the FVSD website, school-based websites, placed in the Administrators' Handbook and staff handbooks.
- Each school's Student Code of Conduct will be published on the school's website and published in student and staff handbooks.
- Staff handbooks will outline the roles and responsibilities of the school leadership and staff as it pertains to procedures and operations around student management.
- The FVSD Student Code of Conduct will be reviewed annually by the FVSD executive and school leaders.

FVSD will support the establishment of student organizations in accordance with [Section 16.1 of the School Act](#).