

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND EXPECTATIONS

It is the expectation that all F.G. Leary students and staff will exhibit behavior that is consistent with the principles of common decency and courtesy to others. Proper conduct is expected while on the school premises, on the way to and from school, at all school games, functions and field trips, and behaviour beyond these times (including on-line behaviour). FG Leary Elementary promotes 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, colour, and ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and age - in respect of discriminatory publication and discrimination in accommodation, service and facility in the school environment.

Although we will take every opportunity to teach the positive behaviors outlined in our Code of Conduct and PBS Behaviour Matrix we expect each student to become familiar with all aspects of it. Parents will be notified of serious breaches of the **Code of Conduct**.

We don't have a long list of rules at FG Leary Elementary, however, there are a number of specific expectations of which students and parents need to be aware:

That means that students should be following our Behaviour Code: Be Cooperative, Caring, Respectful and Responsible.

Hands and Feet Off Policy

At FG Leary Elementary we talk about having a '**Hands and Feet Off Policy**'. This means that there will be no play fighting, etc. Horseplay often gets carried away and injury occurs so students need to find productive ways or expending energy.

Bullying vs. Conflict (Safe, Caring, Orderly School Guide)

We need to clearly identify the difference between conflict and bullying in order to appropriately respond to bullying incidents. While the two seem similar in some instances, there is actually a distinct difference:

Bullying is a persistent pattern of unwelcome or aggressive behaviour that often involves an imbalance of power and/or the intention to harm or humiliate someone. Bullying often results in feelings of distress for the victim.

Conflict, on the other hand, is generally a disagreement or difference in opinion between peers who typically have equal power in their relationships. It's usually an inevitable part of a group dynamic.

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Bullying

There is zero tolerance for **Bullying** at FG Leary Elementary School. **Bullying** may take the form of:

Physical- which includes such things as punching, pushing, shoving, tripping, hitting, spitting, beating, destroying property, use of or threat with a weapon, etc.

Verbal- which includes such things as teasing, name calling, mocking, insults, putdowns, sarcastic remarks, threats, either in person or via email or other social media forms.

Discrimination- which includes race, colour, and ancestry, place of origin, religion, family status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation (prohibited grounds set out in the BC Human Rights Code).

Social Isolation -which includes such things as ignoring, excluding from a group, gossiping, spreading rumors, public humiliation, etc.

Cyberbullying-which includes including hardware such as computers and smartphones and software such as social media, instant messaging, texts, websites and other.

Cyberbullying can happen at any time. It can be in public or in private and sometimes only known to the target and the person bullying. It includes:

- Abusive or hurtful texts emails or posts, images or videos
- Deliberately excluding others online
- Imitating others online or using their log-in.

When it is brought to our attention that any of the above behavior occurs, we strive to deal with them in an educational and restorative manner rather than merely punitive. Restorative Practices will help build capacity to enable students to self regulate behaviour and positively contribute to a safe and caring school community.

This practices enables children to:

- Take responsibility and accountability for their actions
- Prevent incident from recurring
- Restore relationships
- Understand and repair the harm they caused

Weapons

Weapons are defined as any instrument that can be used to injure, harm, or intimidate another person. Weapons of any kind are prohibited on school premises, and students who are found with knives, pellet guns, replicas of guns or other dangerous objects such as laser pointers, on their person, in bags, purses, or in their lockers will be subject to disciplinary action.

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Dress

We are a place of learning, and in that environment, it is important that the students present themselves accordingly.

We want our children to be aware of what their fashions say about themselves and dress in a way that demonstrates self-respect. Below are some guidelines to keep in mind when thinking about what is appropriate in our learning environment.

- Clothing should be appropriate for children in an elementary school setting
- No make-up
- We do not want to see undergarments of any kind
- The midriff area is to be covered at all times
- Tops need to adequately cover
- Absolutely no spaghetti straps, lasagna straps are acceptable
- Shorts and skirts should be a respectable length and style
- Proper footwear is required. This includes clean inside shoes and supportive non-marking athletic shoes for PE. It is required that students change into their inside shoes when they enter their classroom.
- Clothing is to have no reference to alcohol, drugs, sex, inappropriate comments or bad language

Students that are dressed inappropriately will be asked to change, cover up or be provided with clothing. Our goal is not to embarrass anyone. We would handle this with care.

Attendance Procedures

The policy at FG Leary Elementary is to assist students in maintaining regular attendance in order to provide the maximum opportunity for learning.

1. It is expected that students will attend all classes and that teachers will record attendance.
2. It is the **parent/guardian's responsibility** to verify an absence by phoning or sending a note to the office. It is recommended that parents contact the school in advance if a student is going to be away.
3. If a student has to leave school prior to the end of the day, he/she must sign out at the office after checking with his/her teacher for homework. Office staff will contact the parents or guardians before the student is released from school.

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Morning Expectations

- School ground supervision begins at 8:10 a.m. Students should not arrive at school before this time.
- Before school students can play only in designated areas and on the Intermediate playground.
- Students are to begin lining up at 8:20 when the warning bell sounds
- Students will enter the building in an orderly fashion and are expected to be seated in their classroom after the morning song.
- Parents are welcome to wait with their children as they line up in the morning.

After School Expectations

Please remember that supervision ends at 2:33 and students can only stay out on the playground or field if their parents are actively supervising them in the area that they are playing. If they are not being supervised they will be sent home or to waiting vehicles.

If you are unable to pick up your children by 2:33 then you need to inquire about our afterschool program.

Bicycles

In accordance with provincial law, students who ride bicycles to school are required to wear a bicycle helmet. Students should securely lock their bicycles in the racks between the school & the shop area. **Please note that the school is not responsible for damage to bicycles.**

Pedestrian Traffic

FG Leary is in a high traffic area. Pedestrians are asked to exercise caution and courtesy towards cars and buses. Students must use the crosswalk.

Skateboards/in-line skates/scooters

Skateboards, in-line skates and scooters may be used for transportation to and from school, but are not allowed to be used on the school grounds. As with bicycles, **helmets must be worn**, and in-line skates may not be used inside the building. **Students who do not wear helmets will be required to leave their skateboards at home.**

Electronic Devices

We have an increase in the number of students who are bringing electronic devices. Cell phones, iPods, and other electronic devices are to be kept in back packs during school hours unless a teacher or EA is providing direct supervision for their use as an educational tool. Cell phones are not permitted during recess and lunch. Students are encouraged to socialize and play during the break times. Cell phones can be used after school but students must receive permission from a teacher. We will also not be responsible for damaged or stolen items that have been brought to school.

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FIELD TRIPS AND CELEBRATIONS

At this time of year, teachers are planning celebrations and field trips as rewards for all the hard work that has gone on in their classrooms.

However, we need to remind parents and students that these events are for students in Good Standing. That means that students should be following our Behaviour Code: Be Cooperative, Caring, Respectful and Responsible. They also need to remember that all school work needs to be completed and handed in to the teacher. If there is a problem, you will be informed by way of AIDE forms and/or phone calls. Please support your child by contacting the classroom teacher to discuss concerns. We understand that families are busy at this time of year and we can hardly wait for summer, but we have a lot of work to accomplish before we get to the end of June. Students who cannot go on the field trip will be at school with work to complete.

We are a Nut-Aware School

We encourage everyone to think about the foods that they bring to school. There are a number of students who have a life threatening reaction to nuts. This allergic reaction would require the use of an EPI Pen and a call for an ambulance. There are other students who have a variety of allergic reactions to food and animals. Students are asked to wash hands, face and desktops carefully. It doesn't matter if there isn't a student in the class who has an allergy we need to think about all the students in the school when it comes to keeping them safe.

Please try to save peanut butter sandwiches and treats to enjoy at home.

F. G. Leary In/Out Days

We are back into the typical cloudy, drizzly, cooler days of fall. Please ensure that your children dress appropriately for the weather. (Jackets, boots, gloves and hats (as necessary) All help to keep the children warm as we move to wetter, cooler days.

WE WILL ENCOURAGE OUT DAYS. Even on days with drizzle or light rain children may be sent out for a period of time to get fresh air. The day is long and children do crave exercise and fresh air.

PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN TO MAKE RESPONSIBLE CHOICES AND ENSURE THEY ARE DRESSED PROPERLY FOR THE WEATHER

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Bad Weather Guidelines & Information for Parents & Students

Inclement weather conditions such as freezing rain, significant snowfall or high wind can occur during the fall and winter months. In such conditions, decisions on the opening or closure of school district facilities are made by the Superintendent of Schools in consultation with management and supervisory staff who have checked first-hand on the driving conditions and general condition of buildings. While service to students and parents is a priority and schools will be kept open as much as is reasonably possible, student and staff safety is the primary consideration.

In the event of extreme weather conditions, parents are urged to check the School District website www.sd33.bc.ca, tune into radio stations **STAR FM 98.3**, **The Drive 89.5**, or **The Weather Network (cable channel 90, STAR Choice 398 or Bell Expressview 505)** to receive up-to-date information on school closures and information on the buses. Reports will start after 6:00am and will be repeated often. The information broadcast is directly from the School District. The reports are confirmed and there is **no need to call your school**, the School District Office or the radio station. Students will be marked absent for the day, but such an absence will not affect a perfect attendance record.

In the event that there is inclement weather but the school remains open, it is the parent's decision, based on their assessment of the relative safety of travel conditions, as to whether or not their children attend school.

Attention all Drivers!

Please be on the look-out as you drive down Walden Street and through our parking lots. While 30 km/hour in a school zone is technically the maximum, that's still pretty fast from a pedestrian's point of view on such a narrow roadway. What's the rush? Please also follow the directions of our crossing guards. They are there to help keep people and traffic flowing smoothly and safely. Thank you for your continued cooperation and understanding.

