8.7 Prevention and Response to Bullying

All schools in British Columbia are required to establish and implement a Code of Conduct, which describes

- *what is acceptable behaviour and unacceptable behaviour, including bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, intimidation, threatening or violent behaviours*
- *the consequences of unacceptable behaviour, which must take account of the student's age, maturity and disabilities or diverse abilities, if any.*

As per the province's erase anti-bullying procedures, anytime the school becomes aware of bullying or harassment, they are expected to investigate incidents, inform families (while following privacy legislation), and take appropriate measures.

British Columbia's *Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools: A Guide* describes the work schools can do to reduce the likelihood that incidents of violence, bullying, harassment and intimidation will occur:

- **Increase the visibility and availability of adults:** adult presence beyond the classroom – in hallways, the cafeteria, gymnasium, and on the school grounds helps the school keep a watchful eye on students in unstructured situations.
- **Make it easier to report safety concerns:** students know that all staff members are prepared to receive reports (verbally or in writing) of safety concerns in a professional manner and to convey the information to the appropriate personnel as soon as possible.

- **Make it safer to report safety concerns**: anonymous "safety tip" boxes are placed strategically around the school, and confidential "safety tip" voicemail numbers are published. Both are checked frequently by a "tellable" adult.
- **Make reporting safety concerns common practice:** a code of social justice (as opposed to a code of silence) is openly valued in the school, as is the expected behaviour that students will inform a "tellable" adult, in a timely manner, of incidents of bullying, harassment or intimidation.

Additional Resources:

Safe and Orderly Schools: A Guide

Policy 450: Equitable and Inclusive Education Services for Learners

AP 4001: Respectful Workplace Program

erase - expect respect & a safe education

Policy 172: Anti-Racism and Cultural Safety

AP 4002: Anti-Racism and Cultural Safety

BC SOGI Education

SOGI 123 Parent Brochure

Policy 171: Sexual Orientation Gender Identity

AP 1101: Sexual Orientation Gender Identity (SOGI)