



VANCOUVER HEBREW ACADEMY

CODE OF CONDUCT

Dear Parents,

At VHA we feel strongly that a successful educational experience can only occur when school and home work together. For that reason we ask that you please review our Code of Conduct with your child.

The Code of Conduct defines the behaviour we expect from each child and spells out very clearly that which will not be tolerated. The goal is to ensure a safe, nurturing and inclusive educational environment for all of our children, where active learning can be fostered in an atmosphere where respect and dignity are shared values. Students must abide by the Code of Conduct and use appropriate conflict resolution strategies at all times. Violations of the Code will result in intervention or disciplinary action, as needed.

Once you and your child have familiarized yourselves with the guidelines, we ask that you both sign the Declaration on the last page (parents may sign for young children), and return it to your child's classroom teacher on the first day of school.

Thank you.

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The Board of Directors of Vancouver Hebrew Academy recognizes its obligation to all members of the school community to provide a positive climate and a safe, healthy environment such that effective, purposeful teaching and learning may take place.

To that end, it is expected that all members of the school community will conduct themselves in an ethical and lawful manner that demonstrates respect for self, others, property and the environment. A violation may warrant intervention or disciplinary action. Good behaviour, while expected, is regularly encouraged, acknowledged and rewarded.

It is expected that all members of the Vancouver Hebrew Academy school community (staff, students, parents and guests) will:

- **Respect the rights of others**
- **Respect the health and safety of others**
- **Respect the property of others – private and public**
- **Respect the legitimate authority of the principal and staff**
- **Respect and take pride in the school's physical facilities**
- **Respect the diversity of the school community**
- **Respect the property of the school**
- **Respect the individual classroom rules and school rules as a whole**
- **Behave in an ethical and lawful manner**
- **Behave in a safe and responsible manner at all times**
- **Behave in a considerate and courteous manner**
- **Not threaten harass, intimidate or assault, in any way, any person within the school community**
- **Not be in possession of weapons, dangerous articles, toy guns, or knives while in school or at school functions**

The following behaviours will not be tolerated in the school or at school functions:

- **Physical Violence**
- **Rudeness**
- **Vandalism**
- **Foul Language**
- **Unkindness**
- **Teasing**
- **Bullying**

All students are expected to keep the building grounds and the surrounding community free of refuse. Classes assume responsibility for keeping the grounds clean on a weekly rotating basis. Parents will be held financially responsible for physical damages to the school property and premises caused by their children.

Consequences of Code Violations

Effective student discipline requires a sensitivity to and understanding of the needs of each individual child. A teacher or administrator must identify the root of the behaviour and address the cause, while simultaneously eliminating the offensive behaviour. Several factors will weigh upon a staff member's approach to discipline, including the age of the child, the seriousness of the offence and the frequency of the event. The severity of consequences is at the discretion of the administration. In the event of a violation, the following order of procedure will be followed:

- 1) Students will be disciplined by the classroom teacher.
- 2) After several minor problems or one major infraction involving disrespectful attitude, the student will attend a problem-solving conference with the principal.
- 3) If the student is reported subsequently for the same or similar offense(s), he or she will attend a problem-solving conference with the principal and will not be permitted into class without a note signed by a parent.
- 4) An additional incident *requires* a parent conference.
- 5) If the behaviour continues, the student will serve an in-school suspension.
- 6) If, following the in-school suspension, behaviour is still a difficulty the student will serve an at-home suspension.
- 7) Continued misbehaviour will result in an extended suspension. Before being permitted back into the school, the family will have to meet with the Board appointed Discipline Committee.
- 8) Continuous misbehaviour without visible progress or lack of parental co-operation at any time during this process will result in the student's expulsion from school.

Student Suspension and Exclusion Policy

In accordance with the Independent School Act, the VHA Board of Directors authorizes the Principal to suspend a student.

Suspension may be for the following reasons:

- Willful disobedience.
- Behaviour that has a harmful effect (physical or emotional) on other students.
- Vandalism to school or personal property.
- Possession of drugs, alcohol or weapons.
- Continuous misbehavior as noted above.

The parent(s) will be asked to return with his or her child to make a commitment to improved behaviour.

Conflict Resolution Strategies:

Students at VHA commit to using effective strategies to resolve differences. These steps are discussed in class and reviewed regularly with staff. They include:

- Stop and clarify before reacting.
- Give the benefit of the doubt.
- If someone is mean or unkind, don't behave the same way back to them. Find a way to STOP the behaviour.
- Do not to escalate problems.
- Seek help from an appropriate person.

Remember: Being part of a social group means helping each other out and occasionally doing favours.

Ve'ahavta lereyacha kamocha-Love your friend as yourself

Declaration:

I have read and understood the VHA Code of Conduct and I have reviewed it with my child. We agree to abide by the rules and policies stated therein.

Student's Name/Signature

Grade

Parent's Signature

Date

Please sign and return to your child's classroom teacher on the first day of classes.