

STUDENT CONDUCT

Notre Dame functions on a basis of friendly cooperation among staff, students, administrators and the larger community.

Students are expected to

- behave in a responsible manner that promotes their active learning and that of others;
- demonstrate respect for themselves, for others, and their property;
- indicate a tolerance for different views, customs, cultures, genders, values, and abilities;
- ensure safety for themselves and others;
- develop a sense of community and pride in Notre Dame and its environment.

Each student who attends Notre Dame is required to have read all school regulations. The parent of each student is required to do the same.

Ignorance of these regulations will not be considered an excuse when determining sanctions in response to broken regulations.

Bullying and Harassment

The safety and well-being of children at Notre Dame is of paramount consideration. Children deserve to be protected from abuse, neglect, bullying, harm or threat of harm. Therefore, Notre Dame will ensure that students will experience a learning environment that enables every child to feel safe, accepted and respected.

Notre Dame will continuously develop strategies to make students feel valued, respected and connected within the school community while remaining consistent with the independent school's faith-values, cultural perspectives and philosophical values.

No student, at any time, is to tease, threaten to hurt, or to hurt any other person.

No student, at any time, is to continually disturb, pester, or torment any other student. Racial, ethnic, sexual, or gender slurs are included in this offence.

Bullying, intimidating, harassing, hazing, name calling, verbal and/or physical confrontations will not be tolerated. Students engaged in this type of misbehaviour or in possession of materials clearly designed for such purposes will be disciplined according to the progressive discipline model and, depending on the severity of the incident, may face immediate and serious consequences.

Students with knowledge of such anti-social behaviour are expected to inform an appropriate adult.

Notre Dame supports and subscribes to [the CISVA's Harassment and Bullying Prevention Policy](#).

Furthermore, all parents and students are highly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the [Bully Free School Campaign](#).

Abuse of Internet and/or Smartphone Privileges

With ready access to WiFi, students have all the resources of the Internet at their fingertips through both personal and school devices.

Students are expected to behave online as they would in any other environment where they represent the school.

Using the Internet for illegal, inappropriate, or obscene purposes, or in support of such activities, is prohibited.

Inappropriate use of the Internet includes, but is not limited to the following:

- the transmission of any materials in violation of Canadian or international laws;
- the duplication, storage, or transmission of pornographic materials;
- the transmission or posting of threatening, abusive, or obscene material;
- the duplication, storage, or transmission of copyrighted material that violates copyright law;
- the participation in pyramid schemes.

Students are not permitted to use torrent clients on computers while at school as this may use an excessive amount of bandwidth, adversely affecting other students' experience.

Moreover, the use of any smartphone or other handheld electronic device in an illicit fashion may be a breach of the Notre Dame Regional Secondary School policy and the Criminal Code of Canada. Students who are in violation of this policy will be subject to school-imposed sanctions. Depending on the severity of the offence, this could include suspension, or even expulsion.

Inappropriate Materials

Students who bring to school or have in their possession materials that are contrary to the values and mission of Notre Dame will be subject to disciplinary action.

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating and Plagiarism

This includes but is not restricted to the copying of work from another student or any undisclosed source in any

form, as well as the altering of marks or report cards.

Text messaging or the transmitting of digital images under test conditions will be treated like any other form of cheating.

Relationships

It is only natural in a co-educational school for relationships to develop. However, the feelings of others must be respected at all times, and any excess of affection shown between two students at best causes embarrassment to others, and at worst gives scandal to the community.

Unacceptable Conduct towards Staff and Peers

Students are to be courteous in speaking to and about the faculty, staff and other students. Students are expected to manifest the highest level of sportsmanship at athletic contests and to act like ladies and gentlemen at all activities and assemblies.

No student will at any time, or for any reason, threaten, strike, or attempt to strike, or damage the property of any member of the Notre Dame staff.

Whistling, shouting, loud talk, rowdy conduct and inappropriate physical contact (including displays of affection) are not permitted in the school building, or in the general vicinity of the school grounds.

Insubordination and Inappropriate Language

Insubordination is the refusal to follow a reasonable request, instruction, or order of any member of the school staff. Abusive language directed at a staff member is also regarded as insubordination and will not be tolerated. Consequences will be appropriate to the severity of the incident.

Appropriate language conducive to a Catholic school environment is expected at all times. Inappropriate language used in and around the school will be handled using the progressive discipline model. Inappropriate language used in the classroom or in any formal setting will result in immediate consequences that will include a detention. If and when such language is directed at a staff member, the consequences will be more severe. Students involved in this type of behaviour will be suspended. Depending on the severity and/or behavioural history of the student(s), more serious consequences may be deemed necessary immediately.

Defacing or Destruction of School Property

Students who are responsible for defacing or destroying school property, including textbooks, will be required

to make restitution for the damages and, depending on the severity of the incident, may be dismissed from school and/or charged under BC criminal code.

Unsafe and Reckless Behaviour

This includes but is not restricted to any action that would endanger anyone's safety, including tampering with or damaging in any manner fire extinguishers, fire alarms, computer hardware & networks, or security systems.

Smoking

In accordance with British Columbia provincial law, smoking in the school building or on school grounds is prohibited. By law, Notre Dame is a Tobacco Free school (includes cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, and all vapor-related products). School grounds are defined to include all school buildings, all outdoor grounds within the school's property and all vehicles used to transport students or school personnel.

Violators of the smoking policy will receive immediate consequences that will likely include a school suspension and/or 3 one-hour detentions. Both consequences will include a loss of extra-curricular privileges. Repeat offenders will face more serious consequences.

Alcohol*

No student is to consume, possess, share, give, or sell alcohol in any amount at any school function at any time or for any reason, be the function at the school or at another facility. Any evidence of prior consumption of alcohol when a student attends a school function is considered a breach of this regulation.

Consequences related the schools policy on alcohol, drugs, and weapons will, in most cases, involved one or more of the following:

1. Suspension
2. Probation
3. Contract
4. Expulsion (may include criminal charges)

Drugs*

No student, at any time or for any reason, is to use illicit drugs in the school, on school property, during school hours or at any school function held at the school or at another facility or location.

No student is to have in his/her possession, locker, school bag, purse, or vehicle, any amount of illicit drugs or

related paraphernalia in the school, on school property or at any school function held at the school or at another facility or location.

No student, at any time or for any reason, is to give any drug, illicit or prescription, regardless of amount or substance, to another student, to sell any drug to any student or person, to share any drug with any student or person, to offer any drug to any student or person, in the school, on school property or at any school function held at the school or at another facility.

Weapons*

No student, at any time or for any reason, is to have in his/her possession, locker, school bag, purse, or vehicle, any type of weapon in the school, on school property, or at any school function held at the school or at another facility. The school reserves the right to define "weapon" in a particular circumstance.

A weapon is any implement which could be used to threaten, endanger or injure oneself/or another person. If students are found with a weapon, parents and the police department will be contacted. Consequences will, in most cases, include suspension or dismissal from school, based on the type of implement.

*Consequences related to the school's policy on alcohol, drugs, and weapons will, in most cases, involve one or more of the following: suspension, probation, contract, expulsion, and will also include loss of privileges related to extra-curricular activities and school sponsored overnight excursions.

Fighting, Assault, and Battery

No student, at any time or for any reason, may invite or encourage (an) other student(s) from Notre Dame or elsewhere to the premises or any school-related event to threaten or commit a violent act against any other student or member of the Notre Dame community.

Students who are involved with fighting on school grounds or during school related activities will, in most cases, be suspended (1-3 days). Students may also face dismissal from school depending on severity of the incident and the student's behavioural history. A police report may also be filed, if appropriate.

False Alarms and Threats

False alarms or threats are disruptive to school, cost local authorities time and money, and create a hazard for all involved. Students who are apprehended for writing or calling false alarms or threats will be reported to the local law enforcement agency for legal action and suspended or dismissed from school.

Fireworks

Possession or use of fireworks in any form is prohibited in school because of the obvious hazard of injury or fire. Students who bring any form of fireworks into school for their own use or to give to someone else, or have them in their possession or lockers, will be suspended. If warranted by the disruption caused or the potential hazard, students may face criminal charges and/or be dismissed from school.

All Misconduct

Any misconduct that occurs while the student is representing Notre Dame at any athletic event or game, competition, workshop, school-approved activity that is held at the school or at any other facility, in or out of Vancouver, the province or country, will be considered to have broken school regulations.

The school will not usually invoke its disciplinary sanctions for conduct occurring off the premises and outside school hours, unless the misconduct adversely affects the standing of the school in the community or their relationships at school.

Legal Convictions and Public Scandal

Any student who through legal process is convicted of any offence will be considered by Notre Dame to have caused serious damage to the reputation of the school.

Any student whose behaviour causes public scandal or brings negative attention to the school will also be considered to have seriously damaged the reputation of the school and will face serious consequences such as suspension and /or expulsion. This includes but is not limited to social media posts.