



# VHA CODE OF CONDUCT

## **Building A Safe and Caring Community School**

Dear Parents,

At VHA we feel strongly that a successful educational experience can only occur when school and home work together. This requires that every member of the VHA community conduct themselves in manner that is reflective of our shared Torah values. For this 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 family, 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. This theme of respect and dignity is applied in every interaction.

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. Parents are expected to support the school staff as we work in partnership to guide our children in their development.

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.

**Questions?** call 604-266-1245,  
email [vha@vhebrewacademy.com](mailto:vha@vhebrewacademy.com)  
or visit us at [vhebrewacademy.com](http://vhebrewacademy.com)



## Code of Conduct

At Vancouver Hebrew Academy, we believe that all children have the right to learn in a safe, caring and orderly environment. Our expectations are that students will maintain an attitude that is cooperative, courteous and respectful.

Our code of conduct is designed to provide guidelines for appropriate student behaviour while under the jurisdiction of the school or at any school sponsored function. **In general, students are expected to follow the direction of administrators, teachers, and other staff persons.**

### Appropriate Behaviour

**Be respectful to yourself.** The Torah teaches us that we must care for ourselves. In school, this means to care about your learning and your own personal safety.

#### *Some examples include:*

- always do your best
- make good choices
- be on time and ready to work
- complete your homework on time and stay organized

**Be respectful to others.** The *Mitzvah* of “Loving your fellow” means being considerate of others’ personal feelings and properties.

#### *Some examples include:*

- be polite and wait your turn
- treat others with respect
- use good listening skills
- be honest and tell the truth

**Be respectful to property.** The Torah teaches us that we must treasure every item of use. At school, you should care about your school and your environment, and protect school property.

#### *Some examples include:*

- clean up after yourself
- take good care of materials
- ask before borrowing
- protect school property from damage

**Be safe.** In *Pirkei Avot* — Ethics of the Fathers — we are warned not to separate from the community. Students need to learn and follow school rules to maintain our cohesive school community.

#### *Some examples include:*

- walk calmly — no running in hallways
- stay in designated areas
- report dangerous situations to staff

## Inappropriate Behaviour

*Inappropriate behaviour can consist of, but is not limited to:*

- rudeness, swearing
- fighting (or play fighting)
- lack of respect for others, teasing
- throwing objects (rocks, sticks, snowballs, etc)
- defiant behaviour
- running in hallways
- unauthorized leaving of classroom or school grounds
- littering

## Consequences

Consequences will be applied in a fair and consistent manner, respecting individual rights, ages and maturity; and be restorative rather than punitive in nature. Again, the themes of respect and dignity guide every interaction.

*Inappropriate behaviour typically has the following consequences:*

- review of expectations and time away from the group to reflect on their actions
- review of expectations, written assignment and/or loss of privileges
- parents are informed
- meeting with parents
- short term (in school or at home) suspension
- long term suspension
- consultation with law enforcement officers
- expulsion

## Safe and Caring School Environment

*Safe and caring school environments are free from acts of:*

- bullying, cyber-bullying, harassment and marginalization
- threat and intimidation
- violence in any form
- abuse in any form
- discrimination in any form
- retribution against a person who has reported incidents

*Are free of misuse of:*

- cyberspace, cell phones, electronic devices, computers – whether they negatively impact individuals or the school environment

*And do not tolerate the presence of:*

- theft and vandalism
- banned or dangerous substances
- weapons or replica (toy) weapons

## Notification

As circumstances warrant, administrators have a responsibility to advise other parties following a behavioural incident:

- parent of student exhibiting major behaviours (in every instance)
- parent of student on the receiving end (in every instance)
- law enforcement officers

## Conflict Resolution Strategies

All members of the VHA community 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. Find a way to STOP the behaviour
- Do not escalate problems
- Seek help from an appropriate person

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

*Ve'ahavta lereyacha kamocho — 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. My child and I understand and agree that students, while under the jurisdiction of the school or at any school sponsored function, are expected to follow the direction of administrators, teachers, and other staff persons,

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STUDENT'S NAME / SIGNATURE

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STUDENT'S GRADE

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PARENT'S SIGNATURE

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DATE

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

### Vancouver Hebrew Academy

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