



Choice School Policy Manual

DISCRIMINATION PROTECTION POLICY S-2

Background

Each authorized independent school in British Columbia is required to abide by Schedule 1 of the *Independent School Act*. It states that there are basic requirements for independent schools requesting certification as Group 1, 2, 3 or 4 classifications. Article 1 states that:

Before issuing or renewing a certificate of group 1, group 2, group 3 or group 4 classification to an authority the inspector must be satisfied that

- a) no program is in existence or is proposed at the independent school that would, in theory or in practice, promote or foster doctrines of
 - i) racial or ethnic superiority or persecution
 - ii) religious intolerance or persecution
 - iii) social change through violent action, or
 - iv) sedition,
- b) the independent school facilities comply with the enactments of British Columbia and the municipality or regional district in which the facilities are located, and
- c) the authority complies with this *Act* and regulations.

In addition to abiding by Schedule 1 of the *Independent School Act*, it is important that independent schools ensure that students feel connected through the relationships that are created between students, staff, and parents that are part of the school community.

Students who feel respected, accepted and connected tend to be physically and mentally healthier, and perform better academically. They tend to have fewer incidents of violent or “acting out” behaviour, be less sexually active, have a lower rate of “experimentation”, with or “use” of, drugs and alcohol (*Preventing Bullying and Ensuring Safe and Caring School Communities* – Level 1; Province of British Columbia, 2013, p 13).

Policy Statement

The safety and wellbeing of children is of paramount consideration. Children deserve to be protected from abuse, neglect, bullying, harm or threat of harm. Choice School has adopted procedures to ensure that students will experience a learning environment that enables every child to feel safe, accepted and respected.

Choice School will continuously develop and implement strategies to make students feel valued, respected and connected within the school community. This will include the protection of the students’ physical safety, social connectedness, inclusiveness as well as protection from all forms



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of bullying, regardless of their gender, race, culture, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity and expression, while remaining consistent with the school's, cultural perspectives and philosophical values.

Strategies for Enacting Policy S2 - Discrimination Protection

Building a School Community

Choice School's commitment to a safe school rests on the concept of building and supporting a community of understanding and support for students and families.

There are many strategies and activities that can be employed within a school to enable students to feel safe, accepted and respected. The following list sets out, but is not limited to, a range of strategies that will be employed where appropriate to ensure that students are protected from discrimination and that ongoing conversations within the school community are supported.

- Engage students in the decision-making process of policies and activities that build community
- Engage parents in the educational program and school life of their children
- Encourage parents to share their culture and expectations
- Promote open communication among administrators, teachers, staff, students, families and communities
- Be proactive in connecting with students that are experiencing academic or social issues
- Communicate expectations, values and norms that support positive health and academic behaviour in the school community
- Acknowledge students by name
- Be visible within the school during class transitions, breaks, before/after school
- Find ways to acknowledge students for their contributions in the school community, including those where improvement comes only in small increments.