

# THE LANGLEY SCHOOL COMMUNITY CONTRACT

2017-2018

The Langley School strives to create a learning environment that is safe and promotes the intellectual and ethical development of each of its members. Ultimately, the community expects children to act as responsible participants in the learning environment. Specifically, the school partners with parents/guardians in fostering the development of children with regard to five core values: respect, kindness, honesty, trustworthiness, and citizenship. These values are essential to creating an environment in which students care for themselves, develop a sense of personal integrity and self-discipline, and learn the value of individual and collective responsibility. The Langley School values the unique gifts and strengths of each member of the school community.

The articulation of a *Code of Conduct*, within the Community Contract, creates community norms for behavior and therefore provides a system of discipline for the school. Philosophically, the Community Contract is a means of promoting the healthy growth and development of young people. Systems of discipline should never demean or condemn, but rather should serve as a tool for developing sound habits and a sense of self-control and self-discipline. Ultimately, this system of discipline is an educational tool, one which helps students to learn that all actions have consequences. Thoughtful community life requires restraints, as well as freedom. Further, The Langley School Community Contract is predicated on the belief that students can learn from their mistakes. This contract guides students toward maturity and stresses the basic values which are essential to the welfare, health, and safety of the learning environment.

## **Code of Conduct for a Safe Learning Environment**

The Langley School believes that a sense of **personal and collective responsibility** should direct a student's conduct in all aspects of school life. Students must assume responsibility for their own actions and contribute to a positive learning environment. Further, students are encouraged to seek the support of trusted adults in dealing with the conduct of others, when such conduct threatens the safety of the learning environment. Five core values comprise the Code of Conduct and are central to the life of the school.

These core values are to guide the conduct of students while on school property, during school-sponsored activities and/or trips, or while under school auspices. Any conduct, including behavior that occurs off campus, that threatens the community's sense of safety, trust, or security is prohibited and can result in a disciplinary response. The following standards of conduct are extremely important for the safety and well-being of the community and all of its members:

**Respect:** All students are expected to show a just regard for and appreciation of the dignity and worth of all members of the school community. Students are expected to be polite and courteous. Students are expected to enhance, not detract from, the learning environment. A student may not use obscene, profane, or disrespectful language or gestures.

**Kindness:** All students are expected to endeavor to create a welcoming and affirming school environment. Students may not engage in hurtful verbal or physical attention, harassment, abuse, fighting, or threatening behavior. A student may not use pejorative or discriminatory language, including, but not limited to, demeaning comments related to ethnicity, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ability, or social or economic status. Teasing and joking are not acceptable excuses for unkind comments and behavior.

**Honesty:** All students are expected to be truthful. Lying, i.e., deliberately presenting false impressions, statements, information, or claims, is strictly prohibited. In addition to being honest and truthful, students are expected to ensure that all of their academic work is their own and represents their efforts. Students are expected to take ownership of their learning. Deliberately giving or receiving any unauthorized assistance on a test or assignment is considered cheating and is unacceptable. Cheating includes consulting unauthorized sources. In general, cheating is passing off another's work as one's own. Taking the property of another person without prior permission is considered stealing.

**Trustworthiness:** Community citizens are expected to display behavioral characteristics that are worthy of trust. Students are expected to obey school rules, be dependable, and respect the property of others.

**Citizenship:** As citizens of the Langley community, all students are expected to help maintain a safe and clean school environment, and behave in accordance with all laws and school policies. Possessing, using, distributing, or remaining in the presence of illegal or potentially harmful substances, including alcohol and illegal drugs, is strictly prohibited. A student may not possess knives, weapons, or firearms of any kind, or use other objects in that manner, at any time. Further, a student who knows that such weapons are in a student's possession or on campus must report this to an adult immediately. Violent behavior of any kind is prohibited, including threats against individuals or the institution. Students may not deface or misuse school property or the property of others.

*Note: The school stresses the ethical and responsible use of all educational material, including, but not limited to, technology resources. Telecommunications (including e-mail, instant messaging, chat rooms, bulletin boards, websites, etc.) are subject to the same standards and rules as verbal and print communications.*

## School Response

When a student breaches the Community Contract, there will be a response from the school. Teachers and/or administrators, based on the developmental needs and characteristics of students, will handle cases within each division. Possible responses to infractions may include, but are not limited to:

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal reminder   | <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of privileges                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Logical consequences (PS and LS)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Written reminder                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling (informal, formal, and/or psychological evaluation)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Restorative discipline (Middle School) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Imposition of restrictions on freedom during the school day and/or participation in school activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/guardian conference             |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Detention                              |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Expulsion                              |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspension                             |

Responses to infractions will vary according to the nature of the infraction and will not necessarily follow a prescribed sequential order. Disciplinary matters will be treated with sensitivity and confidentiality, keeping the needs of students and the safety of the community at the heart of the school's response.

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*Please detach this portion and return one form per child to the student's homeroom teacher or advisor on the first day of school.*

### THE LANGLEY SCHOOL 2017-2018 COMMUNITY CONTRACT

I have read and agree to comply with the Community Contract.

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Print Name(s) of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

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Signature(s) of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

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Print Name of Student

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Signature of Student, if in grades 1-8