



Rationale

Each authorized independent school in British Columbia is required to abide by Schedule 1 of the Independent School Act.

- 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
- 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 among students, staff, and parents in the school community.

Policy

Schools will develop 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 of bullying, regardless of their gender, gender identity and expression, race, culture, religion or sexual orientation, while remaining consistent with our Catholic faith-values, cultural perspectives and philosophical values.

Procedures

Strategies and activities should enable students to feel safe, accepted and respected. The following suggestions can promote this. Staff should:

- acknowledge students by name
- be visible within the school during class transitions, breaks, before/after school
- engage parents in the educational program and school life of their children
- acknowledge students for their contributions in the school community, including those where improvement comes only in small increments.
- communicate expectations, values and norms that support positive health and academic behaviour in the school community
- be proactive in connecting with students that are experiencing academic and/or social issues
- promote open communication among administrators, teachers, staff, students, families and communities
- encourage parents to share their culture and expectations

- engage students in the decision-making process of policies and activities that build community.

References:	Date: August 2023
	Revisions: