



Developing a Culture of Safety, Acceptance and Respect for all Students and Staff

Every member of our school community deserves to be safe and secure at school and free from bullying and harassment. In order to prevent bullying (and/or harassment) from occurring, anyone who is bullied or witnesses bullying is to report the situation to the teachers immediately. Parents are also encouraged to speak with the classroom teacher or the Safe Place Coordinator, Tracy Ashley, if they suspect a bullying problem. Any students involved in bullying will be dealt with according to the discipline policy of the school. It is everyone's responsibility to keep our school safe for all.

Developing a culture of safety, acceptance and respect is paramount to Nelson Christian Community School (NCCS). We strive to build a culture that protects students and staff from discrimination, abuse, neglect (children), bullying, harm, or threat of harm regardless of their gender, race, culture, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity and expression.

This is done through:

- A. Anti-bullying and safety policies for students and staff. These policies are communicated verbally and are available through the Student/Parent and Staff NCCS handbooks. All handbooks can be accessed through the NCCS website at any time (www.nelsonchristian.ca).
- B. Established mechanisms for reporting concerns. NCCS has a formal process for dealing with complaints or concerns – for both staff and students.
- C. Educating all staff on what is and how to recognize abuse, bullying, discrimination, neglect and harm. This education is part of our start-of-year staff training and is followed up at various staff meetings throughout the year.
- D. Computer Use Policy for all students using NCCS computers and technology. Online communications between staff and students are archived.
- E. Promoting a culture of safety and respect through an 'all staff on supervision' approach.
- F. Ensuring adequate student supervision at all NCCS sponsored activities and field trips. This is kept to a minimum of a 1 (adult) to 7 (students) ratio. All parent volunteers are debriefed on their role and how to report concerns prior to the activity.
- G. Staff participation in Professional Development workshops and courses in the areas of abuse, neglect, discrimination, anti-bullying and awareness of cultural and other student needs.
- H. Mandatory participation in the ERASE Bullying program.
- I. Engaging parents in giving input into the educational program and sharing their culture and expectations.
- J. Promote open communication between administrators, teachers, staff, students, and families.
- K. Communicate norms, expectations, and values that support a healthy and positive school community.