

## **VALHALLA SCHOOL FOUNDATION / VALHALLA COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

### **NEW POLICIES**

#### **Policy I-101:**

#### **WELCOMING, CARING, RESPECTFUL, SAFE AND HEALTHY LEARNING AND WORKING ENVIRONMENTS**

Students are better able to achieve success and a positive sense of self when schools are inclusive, welcoming, caring, respectful and safe. Such environments support students in building healthy relationships with others, value diversity and demonstrate respect, empathy, and compassion.

Each student and staff member within the Valhalla Community School has the right to learn and work in an environment that promotes dignity, respect and equality of opportunity. In keeping with the emphasis on rural leadership and community at VCS, the Valhalla School Foundation Board is committed to providing a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging.

The Charter Board is further obligated to protect all students and staff from harassment, discrimination, and violence during school-related activities. All those involved with the Valhalla Community School and Valhalla School Foundation, including Directors, employees, students, parents, volunteers, contractors, and visitors must share in the responsibility for eliminating bullying, discrimination, harassment, and violence. The Charter Board prohibits bullying, harassment, discriminatory and violent behaviours, for any reason, including race, color, gender identity, sexual orientation, body type or religious beliefs, and expects allegations of such behaviours to be investigated in a timely and respectful manner.

One key outcome of our vision for Valhalla Community School is that all students will possess a strong connection to the school as a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe place focused on their individualized success.

#### **Specifically**

1. The Charter Board acknowledges its responsibility to ensure welcoming, caring, respectful, safe and healthy learning and working environments for all students and staff. It further recognizes the importance of students' emotional, social, intellectual and physical wellness to their success in school, and in support of a safe, caring environment expects students to adhere to the Student Code of Conduct.
2. The Charter Board expects all Directors, employees, students, parents, volunteers, visitors, and contractors to embrace and support this policy. This policy covers behavior not only on school property, but also at any school-related functions and applies whether contact is face-to-face, by phone, fax, e-mail, internet, social media sites, or any other means of communication. Threatening, harassing, intimidating, assaulting or bullying, in any way, any person within the school community, including aggressive behaviours such as hate messaging through websites created in the student's home or in other off-campus settings, is strictly prohibited.

3. The Charter Board expects all members of the school community to report to a responsible adult, in a timely manner, all incidents of bullying, threats, harassment, discrimination, violence or intimidation regardless of the identity of the alleged harasser or offender.
4. The Charter Board will hear unresolved student or staff complaints of bullying, discrimination or harassment.
5. The Charter Board supports the establishment of student organizations as well as the arranging of activities which are intended to promote a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment, including but not limited to organizations such as gay-straight alliances, diversity clubs, anti-racism clubs and anti-bullying clubs are permitted.

**Policy A-102:  
GUIDING PHILOSOPHIES AND PRINCIPLES**

**Section 4**

The VSF recognizes the central role of parent and guardian in the life of a child and therefore sees itself as a partner commissioned to foster academic success as part of the overall process of child development. In keeping with this:

- 4a. VSF is committed to the development of trusting partnership relationships fostered by open and transparent communication between parents and the school on all matters concerning their children.
- 4b. It is a priority that parents form a majority of the Foundation's representatives.