

École St-Sacrement

**Blessed Sacrament
School**



**STUDENT
GUIDELINES
&
FAMILY
HANDBOOK**

MISSION STATEMENT

As a community of Catholic educators at Blessed Sacrament School, we strive to develop the potential of each child within a structured learning environment and to share our faith and our French cultural heritage with our pupils so that they become fulfilled, responsible members of society through:

MORAL and SPIRITUAL Development

We wish to kindle the desire for living and knowledgeable faith and to awaken a sense of responsibility and autonomy.

INTELLECTUAL Development

We believe in the natural enthusiasm of each child. We call upon this enthusiasm so that each child will desire to learn on his or her own.

EMOTIONAL Development

We desire to foster each child's love for family and respect for the teachers and schoolmates. We wish to develop in each child a positive self-image so that he/she may feel confident, secure, valued and cared for.

SOCIAL Development

We hope to prepare each child for life and society by team work, mutual help and sharing.

PHYSICAL Development

We care for the health of each child through team sports, games, physical education classes and good nutritional habits.

FRENCH IMMERSION

As a Catholic French Immersion school, we offer children the opportunity to learn to communicate in French at school and in society. Our aim is to help each student develop oral and written fluency in French, while learning about French heritage.

Communicating in French at all times during school hours is essential for the success of our French Immersion Program. Each classroom has a system designed to encourage this model. It is also the responsibility of the parents to support and encourage students' efforts. It is desirable that parents involve their children in out-of-school activities conducted in French whenever possible.

INSTRUCTION IN ENGLISH

Our English Language Arts Program begins at the end of Grade 3. We encourage parents from all grades to establish regular reading sessions in English at home with their children, in order to help give them the love of reading and to acquire basic reading skills.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our goal is to increase the students' awareness of God's goodness, and His presence and action in their lives. Through basic teachings of our Catholic faith, we strive to develop in the students an ability to weigh moral values with an upright conscience and to encourage an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus Christ and the Christian (Church) community.

This will be achieved through daily prayer, daily study of the Word of God, participation in liturgical and para-liturgical celebrations and the daily experience of living in a Christian Community. The school bases its planning on the Religious Education Curriculum mandates by the Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese. (CISVA)

MASSES AND LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

Grades 3 through 7 are scheduled to prepare Mass that is usually celebrated on Fridays at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also celebrated on special occasions such as Christmas, Farewell and year-end.

A warm invitation is extended to all parents, who are able, to attend our weekly school Mass.

THE SACRAMENTS

Students from grade 3 to 7 receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation once a month.

The grade 2 students receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Eucharist later in the school year. Students will be prepared at school as well as in their own parish.

Students will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in their Grade 7 year, beginning in 2018-2019. Students are prepared at school as well as in their own parish.

APOSTOLIC ACTIVITY

Throughout the year, we encourage students to think of the needy in Third World countries, through donations of their own money to the Missions. We especially emphasize this during Fall Harvest season, at Christmas and during the Lenten season.

OTHER CURRICULUM FACETS

LEARNING ASSISTANCE

At École St-Sacrement we strive to meet the needs of children across the curriculum by providing short term, individual or small group instruction in French and/or English. Both the classroom teachers as well as members of our Learning Resource team carry out this instruction. Individual Education Plans (IEP's) are created by the LR team and include input from the parents and other professionals working with both funded and learning assistance students at Ecole St-Sacrement.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Using Chromebooks, and iPads or MacBooks, students have access to a wide range of educational programs. Students from grades 4 to 7 have supervised access to e-mail and the Internet.

LIBRARY

The school library offers a wide range of both French and English books to all students.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is taught to all children to encourage their physical development, mobility and coordination through structured classes, as well as organized team sports. Our program provides opportunities for positive play experiences. Students in grades 4 through 7 are encouraged to join one or more of our many extra-curricular sports teams, including volleyball, basketball, badminton, and track & field.

SCHOOL CLUBS

There are a variety of extra-curricular activities offered in the school. These differ from year to year. Some may require that parents pay an additional fee. Ensuring that parents are prompt to pick up children at the conclusion of these activities is important to the sponsoring teachers.

EDUCATIONAL OUTINGS

During the school year, students participate in teacher selected educational field trips and in-class activities to supplement and enrich the learning opportunity in the classroom.

Students must have written consent from their parents/guardians with the supervising teacher, prior to participating in any off-site experience. Calling home on the day of a field trip to seek oral permission will not be allowed.

HEALTH SERVICES

At present, the Vancouver Coastal Health Services provide Ecole St-Sacrement with limited part-time visits by a school nurse. Routine vision and hearing screening, boosters for Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Polio and Immunizations for Measles, Mumps and Rubella are provided.

Tobacco, Cannabis & Smoking Ban

CISVA Policy Ref. #406 Student Health

On September 2, 2007, the renamed **Tobacco Control Act (bill 10)** came into force. The legislation prohibits all persons from smoking or using tobacco, or holding lighted tobacco in, or

on school property. The non-smoking ban in and around school buildings is in effect 24 hours a day.

Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act [RSBC 1996] Chapter 451 2.2 (1) Local Parish Education Committee Policy –strives to promote and safeguard, through all reasonable means, the physical, emotional and mental health of its students and employees. In compliance with the TOBACCO AND VAPOUR PRODUCTS CONTROL ACT (Provincial Legislation), the school building, all vehicles and grounds shall be smoke and vapour product free. A person must not smoke or use tobacco, smoke cannabis or hold lighted tobacco, in or on school property. A person must not use an e-cigarette, or hold an activated e-cigarette, in or on school property.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Our Extra-Curricular Program includes a variety of clubs and team sports, including badminton, basketball, volleyball, and track and field.

REPORT CARDS

Formal written report cards are issued three times per year, usually in early December, March and June. A parent-teacher meeting and a student-led parent-teacher conference is also scheduled during the year.

HOMEWORK

Students will have both daily and long-term homework and assignments. General time guidelines are listed below, which will vary from day to day depending on the assignment and teacher discretion. If students work diligently and manage their time efficiently, they should be able to complete work within this time frame. Parents are requested to ensure that adequate time, resources, and a place conducive to studying are available for their children.

Kindergarten:	No homework
Grades 1 and 2:	15-20 minutes and home reading
Grade 3	20-25 minutes and home reading
Grades 4 to 7:	45 minutes

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Students are expected to wear the complete school uniform at all times. Summer uniform may be worn from May 1 to Thanksgiving. Winter uniform must be worn the rest of the school year.

BOYS (Kindergarten to Grade 7)	
WINTER	SUMMER
Navy Pullover V-Neck Sweater w/ ESS logo	White Short Sleeve Oxford Shirt w/ ESS logo
White Short Sleeve Oxford Shirt w/ ESS logo	Navy Flat Front Walking Shorts
Tartan Neck Tie (Mandatory for Grade 4 to 7)	Black or Navy Trouser Socks

Navy Flat Front Trousers	Black or Navy Dress Shoes
GIRLS (Kindergarten to Grade 3)	
WINTER	SUMMER
Navy Cardigan w/ ESS logo	White Short Sleeve Oxford Shirt w/ ESS logo
White Short Sleeve Oxford Shirt w/ ESS logo	Navy Wrap Skort
ESS Tartan Tunic	Black or Navy Knee-High Socks
Black or Navy Knee-High Socks/Tights	Black or Navy Dress Shoes
Black or Navy Dress Shoes	
GIRLS (Grade 4 to Grade 7)	
WINTER	SUMMER
Navy Pullover V-Neck Sweater w/ ESS logo	White Short Sleeve Oxford Shirt w/ ESS logo
White Short Sleeve Oxford Shirt w/ ESS logo	Navy Wrap Skort
Tartan Neck Tie (Mandatory for Grade 4 to 7)	Black or Navy Knee-High Socks
ESS Tartan Kilt	Black or Navy Dress Shoes
Black Bike Short (Mandatory - worn under kilt)	
Black or Navy Knee-High Socks/ Tights	
Black or Navy Dress Shoes	
YEAR ROUND (All grade levels)	
Blue Gym T-Shirt w/ athletic logo	Navy Gym Bag w/ logo
Navy Gym Shorts	

STUDENT GUIDELINES

SCHOOL HOURS

School is in session from 8:40 a.m. to 3:05 p.m. for all grades.

Students are expected to arrive at school on time. Late students must check in at the office before going to class. A note of excuse from parents/guardians is required. Continued tardiness is disruptive not only to the student but for the whole class.

Early dismissal at 2:00 p.m. occurs every Monday for staff meetings and professional development days and at 12:00 noon before a major holiday, such as Christmas and Spring Break.

ATTENDANCE

Should students be absent from school for any reason, parents/guardians are required to call the school to inform the office the same morning, and a note of excuse must be submitted upon the student's return to school. You may email an absence note to the teacher or preferably to absences@ess.vancouver.bc.ca

Similarly, a note is required for students who need early dismissal. Prolonged absence is disruptive to student progress and performance. In order to receive full funding students must be in attendance for 600 hours by May 15th. Parents taking extended holidays during the school year may be required to reimburse the School for the resulting loss of funding to the School by the Ministry of Education.

LUNCH

Because of our commitment to the environment, we adhere to the principle of REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE. We ask that students bring reusable containers for their beverage and food. We ask that you avoid buying snacks/desserts packaged in non-reusable or non-recyclable containers. The school has one blue box at school; we encourage all recyclables, and food scraps, to be taken home at the end of each day.

Throughout the school there are signs indicating that Ecole St-Sacrement is a NUT FREE school. We have several children with severe allergies, so parents please read labels carefully and encourage your child to not accept food from another person/child.

No outside food, other than the hot lunch programme, may be brought into the school to share with children to celebrate birthdays and so on. Providing treats may cause harm to the child with allergies and disruption to the class.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Discipline at Blessed Sacrament School is intended to develop, within the student, courtesy and respect for themselves, fellow students, their teachers, playground supervisors, and other adults. We strive to instill in our students respect for their own and other's bodies, property and feelings. Emphasis is placed on developing good habits in work, play, and study.

The effectiveness of the learning environment in our school depends upon the positive participation and self-discipline of our students both in behaviour and academics, including the expectations around the acquisition of the French Language. Both teachers and students do their best work in a positive atmosphere that is purposeful, responsive, and conducive to effective learning. Please, refer to our school Code of Conduct for details.

ACCESSORIES

In regard to hair decorations and jewelry, only discreet and complimentary hair bands, barrettes, etc. are acceptable. No jewelry except for simple watches and small earrings (girls only), and small simple chain necklaces are permitted. Nail polish and make-up are not permitted.

HAIR WEAR

Hair colour must be natural. Girls' hair is to be neat and if necessary, tied back to keep it off the face. Boys' hair must be kept short and neat; above the ears on the side, above the eyes in the front and tapered down to the hairline in the back above the collar. Extreme styles are not acceptable.

TARTAN TUNIC & KILT

The École St-Sacrement tartan tunic and tartan kilt should be worn in such a way that it is no shorter than 2 inches from the floor when in an upright kneeling position.

We are very proud of our school uniform, and we thank you for ensuring that your child has the correct uniform. The school uniform is worn to all school sponsored events.

ENFORCEMENT of UNIFORM

We respectfully ask that all parents ensure that their child/ren come to school in the approved dress code. By taking this responsibility seriously, you are demonstrating respect for our School's dress expectation.

ESS CODE OF CONDUCT

For a full description of the Ecole St-Sacrement Code de Comportment (ESS Code of Conduct), please, visit our school website at www.ess.vancouver.bc.ca.

DAILY SCHOOL ROUTINE

8:00 a.m.	Office opens
8:25 a.m.	Supervision of students begins
8:40 a.m.	First Bell. Students enter building.
8:45 a.m.	Second Bell. Classes begin.
10:15 a.m.	Recess begins.
10:30 a.m.	End of recess. Classes resume.
12:00 p.m.	Lunch recess
12:30 p.m.	Lunch

12:45 p.m.	End of lunch break. Classes resume.
3:05 p.m.	Dismissal. Supervision begins.
3:15 p.m.	Supervision ends.
4:00 p.m.	Office closes

BE ON TIME. Parents will be contacted if students are routinely not picked up by 3:15 p.m. Children need the security of knowing you are coming for them.

PHONE CALLS

The office phone may be used by a child in an emergency only. Please make pick-up arrangements with your child before sending him/her to school in the morning. Children may not phone home to arrange a play date.

We understand that there may occasionally be changes in plans and we will convey messages to your child. Please note that your child will not be called out of class to take a phone call.