

Section:	Principles & Philosophy
Policy:	1.01
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1.01 Community Standards of Conduct

At *Kootenay Christian Academy*, we are defined by our commitment to Christ-centered education, as described in our Purposes, Foundational Statement, and Mission. Our community consists of parents and other family members committed to educating our children in accordance with Christian belief and practice, and the administrators, educators and staff who partner with them to carry out that mission. Our beliefs and practices are integrated, so the ways in which we interact with one another and conduct ourselves (whether in public or in private) are a vital part of our mandate and identity. Having freely chosen to belong to this community, we joyfully affirm the standards that mark us as distinctly Christian.

Our standards of conduct are organized around the general themes of loving God, loving one another, and loving ourselves. These are derived from Jesus' response when asked to name the most important command in the Law (Matthew 22:37-39). We affirm that Christ's commands to love God with all of our heart and soul and mind and love our neighbour as ourselves are the ultimate standard for conduct at Kootenay Christian Academy, and the source from which more specific guidelines are drawn.

Because our conduct is integral to our mission, all of our employees (including administrators, educators, and staff) and our volunteer leaders (including board and committee members) agree to be held accountable to our community standards. All of our volunteer leaders commit to these standards, and they are incorporated into the employment contract for our employees. Where the conduct of an employee or volunteer leader may have fallen short of these standards, we will engage in conversation with that person in a spirit of seeking restoration, mutual understanding, and reaffirmation of commitment to our community and its standards.

Loving God

Christian faith: We promote Christian beliefs, principles, conduct and practice. We respect other religions and traditions but profess and teach the Christian faith as our own.

Communal worship: Gathering together for worship is integral to our Christian life. We worship together in churches, chapels and assemblies, and we participate as active members in our local Christian communities.

Spiritual formation: Our members invest in their individual spiritual formation through the practice of Christian disciplines. These disciplines may include study of Scripture and Christian writings, prayer, solitude, rest, service, and giving.

Loving our neighbour

Civility: We value dialogue, civil discourse, and edifying language appropriate to a community of care and respect. When disagreements and conflict occur, we speak with one another directly to resolve our concerns. Where matters cannot be resolved in this manner, the persons involved ask another appropriate member of the community to help resolve the conflict. We avoid gossip, slander, obscenity, foolish talk and coarse joking, whether in face-to-face conversations or on social media. **Respect for others.** We believe that every person, whether they are part of our community or a neighbour outside of it, is uniquely created to reflect the image of God and as such is worthy of the highest respect and dignity. This is true whatever the person's characteristics including race, culture, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or age. Words or behaviour that diminish, harass or abuse any person have no place in our community.

Sexuality: Our sexuality is a gift from God to be valued and treated with care. We exercise discipline in our sexual expression, out of respect for ourselves and for one another. We reserve expressions of sexual intimacy for within marriage which we affirm to be the lawful union before God of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others. We do not engage in sexual harassment, sexually exploitative behavior, or viewing pornography.

Stewardship: We view all of creation, including our facilities and material goods, as gifts entrusted to our care. We make every effort to care for and protect creation. We care for our property and respect the property of others. We approach material resources with gratitude and generosity.

Loving ourselves

Identity: Our identity is found in Christ and in bearing the image of God. Therefore, each of us is worthy of respect for self and we humbly acknowledge our gifts and accomplishments, we graciously accept forgiveness of our weaknesses and failures. **Self-care.** We treat our own bodies with care and reverence. We recognize the many ways to care for our bodies, including healthy food, exercise, self-care, and rest. We avoid overuse of alcohol, abuse of legal drugs, and any use of illegal drugs. **Self-development.** We actively pursue learning, discovery, and self-development that addresses our emotional, spiritual, mental and physical dimensions.