



# Abbotsford Christian School

## COMMUNITY STANDARDS FORM

Abbotsford Christian School (ACS) is a community which defines itself primarily as a group of believers in and followers of Jesus Christ who wish to provide their children with an education which honors their faith commitment. Members of this community acknowledge God as revealed in the Bible and in the person of Jesus Christ to be sovereign in all areas of life. All of life is worship. Christian life is not a part-time endeavor. It is this fundamental understanding which provides the foundation for and informs the Christian education provided by ACS.

A significant emphasis for a community which claims God as the Lord of all of life is the unity of home, church and school. The expectation of the ACS community is that each of these important elements in a student's life will complement and build up the others, since all endeavors in life are subject to the same faith commitment.

We also acknowledge as a community that our world is tainted and marred by the effects of sin. Failure to consistently remain true to God's teaching and the need for forgiveness is a fact of life. Accordingly, ACS expects all persons with influence over our students to model behavior and lifestyle choices consistent with the Christian walk of faith in all areas of their lives, both school related and non-school related. Teachers, administrators and employees are required to sign a Community Standards Policy (CSP) document as part of their employment contract. Board and Committee members also sign a CSP prior to commencing their volunteer service. Parents, as an integral and essential part of the ACS community, are also required to acknowledge their acceptance of, understanding and support for ACS's vision and its community standards by signing this document.

The community standards are reflected in our Core Beliefs. They include:

- **Truth:** Learning, living and teaching in obedience to God's truth; discerning, engaging and influencing culture with the hope of Christ's redemption.
- **Respect:** Regarding each person as an image bearer of Christ, in love, integrity and openness.
- **Excellence:** Encouraging creativity and a pursuit of excellence in every aspect of life.
- **Service:** Fostering servant-hood and leadership development, modeling the compassion of Christ in all we do.
- **Stewardship:** Actively pursuing and teaching stewardship of time, resources and abilities.
- **Celebration:** Celebrating creation, the life we have in Jesus Christ, and the life we share in our community.

All members of community are responsible to:

- Conduct themselves as responsible citizens.
- Engage in an honest pursuit of biblical holiness.

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- Uphold the Abbotsford Christian School's mission.
- Limit the exercise of their Christian liberty in accordance with the School's mission and the best interest of other members of the community.

The following particular standards of conduct are important non-exhaustive examples of how members, students, board, committee members, administrators, teachers and support staff are to live out their lives in the school community:

- Active involvement in a Christian church.
- Demonstrate clear and active support for Christian education.
- Understand marriage to be a covenant between a man and a woman.
- Respect the sanctity of life from the moment of conception.
- Refrain from sexual misconduct such as adultery, sexual relationships outside of marriage, the use of pornography and/or other sexually explicit material.
- Refrain from the use, possession or distribution of illegal drugs and the abuse of alcohol.
- Refrain from criminal activity and serious civil wrongdoing.
- Respect for persons in authority.

This exposition and application of the ACS Community Standards is not offered as a legalistic definition of right and wrong. Rather, it provides concrete examples of a covenantal commitment to the mission of ACS and a commitment to fellow members of this school community. Certain expectations may not be commanded by Scripture, but nonetheless, they are desirable and essential if all members of the community are to achieve their personal goals. Parental and student submission to the society's constitution and its polices including the Code of Conduct as it relates to parents is a matter of both personal faith and integrity, communal standards, and accountability.