



Immaculate Conception School Parents Handbook

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

To provide an all round education that will enable each individual student to develop according to his or her abilities and talents, physically, spiritually and intellectually.

To promote and convey our Catholic tradition, fostering a strong spirit of love, respect and service within the individual. These Gospel values will be integrated within the school community and hence the extended community.

INTENTION OF THIS HANDBOOK

This handbook is intended to give you some basic information about our school. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have questions about any aspects of school life.

Parents are the first educators of their children. As Catholic educators our goal is to work with you in the Catholic Christian formation of your children and strive for Excellence in Education by helping each student develop to their fullest potential.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

Immaculate Conception School is one of eight Catholic Independent Schools of the Diocese of Prince George. The school is classified by the BC Government as a Group 1 Independent School which means that all teachers are certified and all the Ministry required learning outcomes are being met. We therefore receive 50% operational funding from the government. We do not receive any capital funding. This allows us a certain amount of autonomy in carrying out our objectives as a Catholic school. Tuition fees make up some of the remaining funding required to operate the school.

In order to retain its standing as a Group 1 school, the school is evaluated regularly by the Ministry of Education. These reports have been consistently very favourable.

The expectation of our Catholic community is that all our children participate or be respectfully present in the religious life of our school both in the classroom and at religious celebrations held at the school or at Immaculate Conception Church.

In order to demonstrate and celebrate our Roman Catholic identity, there are many outward, physical signs as well as planned activities and celebrations in our school.



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SCHOOL HISTORY

Immaculate Conception School opened in September of 1981 taking only six months to build! The idea to erect a school was that of Bishop Fergus O'Grady, OMI (RIP). He left the development of this project in the capable hands of Fr. Nicholas Forde, OMI (RIP), who was then pastor of Immaculate Conception Church. Fr. Forde then appealed not only to parishioners for help, but the Prince George community. People of many faiths donated equipment, time and financial assistance. We have many children in school today whose grandparents were directly involved in the actual building of the school.

When the school opened in 1981, it was staffed by the Sisters of Mercy from Callan, Ireland and by Frontier Apostles, men and women who offered their professional skills on a volunteer basis. The Domano Sisters of Mary Immaculate, founded by Bishop O'Grady in 1983, also staffed the school. Dedicated lay members have been on staff since 1989. The school is now entirely staffed by dedicated lay professionals. In 2006, the school celebrated its 25th anniversary. Several past pupils now teach at our school.

We owe a debt of gratitude to all who have gone before and helped establish such a fine Catholic school.

THE STAFF

Our dedicated staff include fully certified teachers and principal, qualified education assistants, and at times contracted specialists from our community. We are dedicated to fully implementing an effective education program according to our school philosophy. In addition to this, our administrative staff work hard to ensure you as parents and our educational personnel have the support needed to educate your child. A listing of our staff and contact information can also be found on our school website on our "About Us" page.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Immaculate Conception School Council, along with all the school councils in the Prince George Diocese is constituted by the authority of the Catholic Independent Schools of the Diocese of Prince George and is an advisory body, directly responsible to Catholic Independent Schools, Prince George and the Bishop.

The Council consists of at least six members and the pastor or Bishop's delegate. Council members are elected for a two year term and must be practicing Catholics. Elections take place at the Annual General Meeting which is held in June. The School Council is responsible for all areas of the management and operation of the school in accordance with the



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Constitution, bylaws, guidelines, directives, policies and regulations of Catholic Independent Schools, Prince George (CISPG).

Parents are an integral part of the school community and are invited and encouraged to become involved in the activities and endeavors of the school. The School Council is the primary avenue for involvement of parents in the school. It is the responsibility of the School Council to approve and direct any parent group working or acting on behalf of the school. A mandatory Parent Participation Program is in effect under the direction of the School Council.

Regular monthly meetings are held and are open to parents except those portions dealing with confidential matters around personnel and finances.

If you wish to make a presentation as an individual or group to Council, you must make your request, in writing at least one week before in order to be included on the agenda.

The officers of the Council are Chairperson, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Subcommittees may include Finance, Maintenance, Parent Participation Program, Retention and Recruitment, as well as various ad hoc committees. You do not need to be an elected member to work on the subcommittees. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the subcommittees, please contact the Council Chairperson.

Please check out our school website, www.icschool.ca, "About Us" page under "History and Governance" for names and contact information for the Council members.

VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteer program is called the Parent Participation Program (PPP) and is overseen by School Council. Volunteers are necessary and very much encouraged within the school and in a variety of ways. Each family sign up for the PPP at the beginning of the school year for the areas in which they are interested in. All volunteers must complete a onetime CIS volunteer application form and submit a Criminal Records Check (CRC) online here <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/eCRC/home.htm> using Access Code: CS2WPWH69E.



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PARENT PARTICIPATION PROGRAM (PPP)

The Immaculate Conception School Council created this program to encourage all parents to become involved with the volunteer efforts that take place at our school.

Highlights of the program are:

- Each family commits to at least 15 hours of volunteer service to Immaculate Conception each school year (more is welcomed and encouraged).
- Families may choose to donate \$150.00 in lieu of their participation in this program.
- Each family will submit a cheque, post dated for May 15th of the following year, in the amount of \$150.00. When hours are completed, the cheque will be returned.
- Parents will log their hours online.

Many areas are available for parent participation. Each family will have a log sheet that will reflect the hours they have volunteered at the school and this sheet will be used to obtain the return of the post-dated cheque.

The goal of this program is to encourage parents' participation - not to generate revenue for the school. Our school community can only benefit from increased participation of our parent community. Funds that are generated through this program are used to support activities and events for students.

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP (PSG)

All parents are automatically a member of the Parent Support Group. Meetings are held monthly and everyone is welcome. All parents are encouraged to contribute. There are many ways in which to contribute to school and community spirit as well as raise much needed funds.

We are fortunate to have a very active Parent Support Group. PSG co-ordinate most of the volunteer activities in the school and exist to support the school in carrying out its objectives. There are many activities to be involved in.

HEALTHY HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

Volunteer parents offer a healthy hot lunch program each Friday for students. A wide variety of menu items are served over the course of the year.



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ADMISSION POLICY

- A. Immaculate Conception School determines a student's eligibility for enrollment of new students using the following four steps:
1. First priority is given to practicing Catholic students with siblings already in the school
 2. Second priority is given to new practicing Catholic students to our school
 3. Third priority is given to non-practicing/non-Catholic students with siblings already in the school
 4. Fourth priority is given to new non-practicing/non-Catholic students in our school
- B. Proof of Catholicity is to be provided at the time of registration with a minimum requirement of a copy of the applicant's baptismal certificate.
- C. For the purpose of this policy, to be deemed as a 'Catholic family', a family must be practicing Catholics and meet the requirements outlined in CISPG Policy 501 which states: "Practicing Catholics shall mean those individuals who are registered in a parish and attend Sunday mass faithfully". Immaculate Conception School shall contact the parishes when and if necessary to ensure families meet this requirement.
- D. All new families to Immaculate Conception School are required to complete the CISPG Family Statement of Commitment.

FEES

Tuition

As an independent school, Immaculate Conception receives 50% of the local public district funding. One way to make up this short fall is to charge a tuition fee. Current fees are posted on the school website at www.icschool.ca.

These fees may be paid in full at the beginning of the year or in ten monthly installments. Accepted payment methods include post-dated cheques, payment at school office by debit or credit, monthly automatic withdrawals by debit or credit or online payment by credit card through the school website. Receipts for tuition fees received will be sent out in February for Income Tax purposes.



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Supplies

A fee is assessed each year to assist with covering the costs of art materials and photocopying paper used by the students throughout the year. The fee is included in the annual class supply list. In addition, each class has a list of required supplies and consumable workbooks that each student must acquire. The workbooks are purchased at our school. Current supply lists can be viewed on the school website.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Every student attending Immaculate Conception School participates in the Diocese approved religion program “Alive in Christ”. No student is exempt from our program of religious studies.

The values and Catholic Christian atmosphere created by this program and the fact that we are a Catholic School, permeates the whole school day. We strive to integrate Gospel values in all aspects of the curriculum.

Although students receive on-going religious instruction in their classrooms, our parish places equal emphasis on the family’s involvement in preparing children to receive the sacraments. This parish communal preparation involves a series of sessions on the important journey in the faith life of our children. Notification of the dates and details of this programme will be sent out in our Parish bulletin or by contacting the Parish Office.

A Christian family life program goes hand in hand with our religion program. Parents will be informed by the teacher regarding the content of this program when it begins. While we support parents in teaching Christian sexuality at home, this topic will be taught in school. If parents wish, students may opt out of this portion of the program.

There is a School Mass usually held at the beginning of each month. Classes take turns preparing liturgies. Each month we also focus on a specific virtue which is introduced at our monthly assembly.

Feast Day December 8th Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Our school is named after Mary, the Mother of Jesus who was born without any blemish or sin so that she could bear the Son of God, Jesus Christ. This is what in our faith tradition we call the Immaculate Conception.



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CURRICULUM

Immaculate Conception is a Group 1 Independent School. We follow all Ministry guidelines pertaining to the Independent Schools Act. We teach the BC Curriculum as mandated by the Ministry of Education.

Every six years we have a Ministry evaluation, which reviews every aspect of the school. The level of funding received from the Ministry depends on our meeting and exceeding the basic curriculum and other physical plant and safety requirements.

HOMEWORK

Homework assignments contribute to the educational growth of the pupil. A limited amount of homework is given to the Primary students.

A general guideline for homework given to Intermediate students is about one hour nightly. This may include unfinished classwork or re-doing unsatisfactory assignments.

Incomplete Homework

Each teacher has their own set of classroom consequences. These may include a detention or loss of privilege such as PE or class activity. If this is an ongoing problem, parents will be contacted by the teacher.

Homework During Student Absences

Absence Due to Illness or Injury – Parents may phone to request homework for students during times of illness or injury if they feel the child is well enough to complete it effectively. Teachers require time to prepare this work and consideration of this is appreciated. The scope and amount of homework assigned is completely at the discretion of the teacher.

REPORT CARDS AND STUDENT PROGRESS

Report cards are issued three times per year: November, March and June. Teachers are encouraged to keep in contact with parents, both with positive news and when concerns need addressing. All students from Grades 2 to 7 purchase a planner at school and use it daily to record homework assignments. The planner is also used to send notes home from the school, and from home to the teacher.



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DAILY SCHEDULE

8:45 AM	-	Morning classes begin
10:30-10:45 AM	-	Recess
12:00-12:45 PM	-	Lunch
2:50 PM	-	Dismissal

Supervision is provided in the morning from 8:20 AM. Buses pick up students after school at 3:00 PM. There is supervision until the buses leave. Any students waiting to be picked up will wait inside after that time.

Students to be picked up wait outside the Kindergarten entrance door. If parents wish to enter the school to see the teacher or visit the office, please park further back in the parking lot. The parking lot situation after school is hazardous. **Parking is allowed in marked stalls only.**

During school hours, any messages for students can be left with office staff and students will be notified at recesses or at the end of the school day. We ask that students and classes not be disturbed during regular class times.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

ABSENCES

Please telephone the school before 9:00 AM if your child is ill, will be absent from school or will be arriving late. If the school is not contacted, the school secretary will contact the parents. Students must bring a note to explain any absence from school.

Absentee notes are required for the audit in May when government funding is determined. **We discourage taking extra holidays** during term. Students may fall behind in their studies and lengthy absences which are not due to illness may result in loss of government funding for that student.

LATES

Co-operation of parents in punctual arrival of students is appreciated. Students are expected to be in class by 8:50 AM. If students come in late, **they must report to the office for a late slip.** A student is deemed to be late if they enter the school after morning announcements have begun.



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ABSENCE DUE TO HOLIDAYS OR VOLUNTARY NON-ATTENDANCE

If you choose to take your child/ren out of school to accompany you on vacation during the school year, please contact the teacher two to three weeks before leaving so that suitable arrangements for catching up on work may be made.

Homework may be requested but assigning any work is at the discretion of the teacher. It takes a lot of extra time and effort to personalize an educational plan and it may not be possible to accommodate a request for work during voluntary non-attendance during regular in-class sessions. Every effort will be made to ensure your child covers the entire program, but we cannot guarantee this if parents choose to withdraw a student during regular class time for an extended period of time.

LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS

If a student must leave school during regular class time for medical, dental or other valid reasons parents must send a note indicating the time the student needs to leave. This note should be shown to the classroom teacher, and the Parent or guardian must also advise the front desk.

Under no circumstances is a student to leave the building during class time without approval.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Fire and Earthquake Alarm

Students are taught and given the opportunity to practice fire and earthquake alarm procedures in drill situations. Each classroom is equipped with a safety kit which included first aid supplies, plastic bags, a class list, name tags with school and personal information. Lockdown (code red) procedures are reviewed and practiced with all staff and students.

Administering Medication

We **cannot** administer any pharmaceuticals (cough drops, Tylenol, etc.) to students unless the school has been provided with the **REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATION OF NON-EMERGENCY MEDICATION AT SCHOOL** form signed by a parent or guardian. If your child requires any medication during school hours, parents must send the completed form with the medication to the school office. The student will receive the medication as specified on the form.

Anaphylaxis

A specific **ANAPHYLAXIS EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE FORM** and a **REQUEST AND CONSENT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF INJECTION OF MEDICATION IN AN EMERGENCY** form must be submitted to the school before the start of the school year for any students with anaphylaxis requiring the use of an Epi Pen.



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Allergen Aware School

Immaculate Conception School is an Allergen Aware School. At times there are students with severe life threatening allergies. This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to specific foods and can result in death within minutes. As this affects the entire school community, we request that parents do not send foods with students to school that contain nuts.

Special treats like **cupcakes or birthday cakes should not be sent into the school.**

Sickness and Accidents – Parents will be called if their child is sick or has had an injury due to an accident. If you or your emergency contact cannot be reached and immediate care is necessary, an ambulance will be called.

Security, Visitors and Interruptions

1. Any persons entering the school must be buzzed into the school by a staff member. For the security and safety of everyone, **all visitors, including parents, must report to the office** before visiting a classroom or using our facility during school hours. It is not appropriate for former students to visit friends at our school while school is in session.
2. Parents may drop off lunches and homework at the office. Students may come to the office to pick up on their first available break or at the teacher's discretion.
3. For security reasons, the rear entrances to the school will remain locked during the day. The main entrance will be locked at all times and persons wishing to enter the school may buzz into the office. The kindergarten door will be locked between 9:00AM - 2:30PM.
4. If your child is to be picked up after school by **anyone other than yourself, please notify the office either by a phone call or in writing.**
5. All written material sent home to parents, with the exception of teacher assignments, must first be authorized by the principal. Birthday party invitations are not distributed by the school. We are not able to give out class lists with addresses and phone numbers due to privacy regulations.

PLEASE NOTE:

The Parent Support Group organizes and runs several family gatherings and/or dances each year. Due to concerns regarding potential liability issues if children are dropped off at these special events and parents do not stay to supervise, the Parent Support Group and members of our school's staff, reserve the right to refuse entry to any unsupervised child or student.



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SCHOOL POLICIES

Immaculate Conception School adheres to all CISPG policies. These policies can be viewed online at www.cispg.ca or by clicking this link <http://cispg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/CIS-Policy-Manual1.pdf>.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL SCHOOL POLICY

1. Students are not allowed to bring electronic devices such as video games, ipods, ipads, cell phones, collector trading cards or other valuable items to school as we cannot be held responsible for their damage or loss. The only exception to this is outlined in the school Bring Your Own Device Policy.
2. Students are required to have written permission from parents prior to taking part in extracurricular activities and field trips.
3. Only those students who have definite transportation arrangements made before coming to school may attend after school activities.
4. Students must remain in designated areas during all school activities.

These local policies can be viewed in full on our school website at www.icschool.ca



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SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Student Code of Conduct in place ensures each student in the school the excellent learning atmosphere they deserve. Immaculate Conception School uses the following discipline plan. We believe that all students can behave appropriately in school. Students preventing a teacher from teaching, preventing another student from learning, or any behavior that violates the best interest of any individual in the school community will not be tolerated.

GENERAL RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

1. Respect all persons and act politely (no rude language, gestures or insulting remarks).
2. Follow the directions of **all** staff and volunteers.
3. No fighting, rough, dangerous play fighting or striking another student. Sharp or dangerous objects are not allowed in the school, playground or bus.
4. **WALK** quietly in corridors at all times.
5. Use school property, equipment, books, phone, etc., appropriately and under supervision.
6. No gum chewing in school or on the playground.
7. The personal use of electronics during the school day, including recess/lunch, is not permitted.
8. Eating and drinking in the school will be allowed only at designated times and places.
9. Students are expected to adhere to the school dress code guidelines and wear proper indoor footwear each day.
10. Follow your classroom rules.
11. Students should not be in the school building unsupervised or enter without permission.
12. All rules and expectations outlined above apply to field trips and sports events.

PLAYGROUND RULES

1. Follow all general rules.
2. Answer buzzer promptly and line up properly at entrances.
3. Use playground equipment in a safe way.
4. Ask permission from the supervisor to enter the school.
5. Place garbage in the containers provided.
6. Contact sports are not permitted, the rule is 'HANDS OFF' and no rough play.
7. No throwing rocks or snowballs.
8. No riding bicycles, skateboards or rollerblades on the playground.



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INCIDENTS OF SERIOUS BEHAVIOUR

- A student willfully disrespects or disobeys a teacher/supervisor or severely disrupts a class.
- A student willfully inflicts physical harm or severely insults another person.
- A student willfully defaces, damages or destroys property.

In all situations of serious behaviour the principal and parents shall be involved.

FIELD TRIPS

Students participating in field trip activities are to behave according to Immaculate Conception's Student Code of Conduct. This will be in effect from the beginning of the field trip until dismissed by the teacher.

CONSEQUENCES OF INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

- A. Each teacher has his/her own in-classroom set of consequences which may include a noon recess detention (12:15-12:45 PM) to be served in an assigned area.
For repeated infractions, parents will be informed, and the principal, if necessary.
When a student is sent to the Principal for recurring and serious infractions, the following may occur:

1 st Visit	Warning – name and rule broken is recorded. Consequences such as detention, loss of privileges, picking up garbage, etc.
2 nd Visit	Name and rule broken is recorded. Parents will be informed by letter and telephone. Consequences such as detention, loss of privileges, school trips, intramurals, extracurricular (whichever is deemed appropriate at the time). An in-school suspension is another potential consequence.
Additional Visits	Name and rule broken is recorded. Parents are informed. Appropriate consequences will result. Consultation with staff may result in suspension from school as per CISPG policy.

SEVERE CAUSE – Skip 1 and 2

CRITERIA FOR SEVERE CAUSE:

- A student willfully disrespects or disobeys a teacher/supervisor or severely disrupts a class.
- A student willfully inflicts physical harm or severely insults another person.
- A student willfully defaces, damages or destroys property.

If a student has demonstrated good behavior and then becomes involved in a problem area, the disciplinarian may consider the student's past record if deemed appropriate. Situational factors (e.g. problems at home) or the student's attitude toward the problem may be taken into account.



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GENERAL POLICY FOR FIELD TRIPS

All field trips are school activities and all aspects of field trips including fundraising are under the direction of a teacher or the Principal. The Principal has the authority to approve all field trips. Written parental consent must be obtained and parent involvement is encouraged. Having at least one male and one female supervisor on all field trips is preferable. Students participating in field trip activities are to behave according to Immaculate Conception's Student Code of Conduct. This will be in effect from the beginning of the field trip until dismissed by the teacher.

This will be in effect from the beginning of the trip until dismissed by the teacher. All overnight field trips must be approved by CISPG.

Severe infractions will be dealt with appropriately on return. In case of serious injury, parents will be contacted and the student will be taken for medical attention.



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DRESS CODE - GRADES ONE TO SEVEN EXPECTATIONS

SHIRTS – Plain white COLLARED shirt, blouse or golf shirt. Blouses must be collared - no ruffles, sparkles, designs. *The only acceptable logo is the school logo available from RJ McCarthy*

PANTS – Grey dress pants. A dress pant is a pant with a single stitch on the side and no outside pockets.
NO cords, jeans, skinny jeans, jeggings, sweat pants or pants with pockets down the side.

SKIRTS - PLAIN grey skirt. Grey or white tights OR knee socks may be worn under a skirt. NO LEGGINGS.

JUMPERS – PLAIN grey jumpers. **Plain grey regular dresses are not part of our dress code.** Grey or white tights OR knee socks may be worn under a skirt. **NO LEGGINGS.**

SHORTS – Grey dress shorts. No pockets on the sides. Dress shorts must be plain and of appropriate length and sizing.

SWEATERS – PLAIN burgundy sweaters - no ruffles, sparkles, designs. Sweaters must be the correct burgundy colour- see RJ McCarthy website for correct burgundy. *The only acceptable logo is the school logo available from RJ McCarthy*

CARDIGANS - PLAIN burgundy cardigans - no ruffles, sparkles, designs. Cardigans must be the correct burgundy colour- see RJ McCarthy website for correct burgundy. *The only acceptable logo is the school logo available from RJ McCarthy*

VESTS - PLAIN burgundy vests - no ruffles, sparkles, designs. Vests must be the correct burgundy colour- see RJ McCarthy website for correct burgundy. *The only acceptable logo is the school logo available from RJ McCarthy*

SHOES - All students are required to have both indoor and outdoor shoes on the first day of school.

PE STRIP – PLAIN white, grey or burgundy t-shirt. Grey or burgundy shorts or jogging pants. IC Kodiak t-shirts may be ordered through the school office.

No make-up or nail polish (except clear) is permitted. Large noticeable jewelry, rings, earrings, high heeled shoes are not permitted.



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The official school uniform supplier is **RJ McCarthy**. Visit their website at www.rjmccarthy.com

WINTER WEATHER POLICY

When the temperature is below -17°C in the morning, the teachers on supervision may let students enter the building. Students entering must stay in their classrooms and will be supervised by the teachers on supervision. Students must not be in the hallways or open the doors for other students to come into the building. Students must ask permission of the teacher on duty if they wish to visit the washrooms. "In day" signs will be posted at the main door and at the office.

If a student arrives with a note for special permission to stay inside on any day, they must come through the front doors and remain at the office area with all their belongings.

An IN-DAY is called if temperatures are below -17°C for the two recesses or if there is significant wind chill. Students will be supervised in their classrooms.

If it is not an in-day, those students who have brought notes requesting they stay inside must bring a book to read while in the office area. The students are not permitted to stay in their classrooms if the teacher is not there supervising them.

STUDENT SAFETY

Student safety is the primary concern determining actions taken as a result of cold or inclement winter weather.

- Schools shall not be closed due to cold or inclement weather.
- In case of school bus delays or cancellation, announcements shall be made via the local radio stations on the affected day.
- School bus service shall be cancelled for the day on a route considered to be too dangerous due to snow or ice conditions. Announcements shall be made via the local radio stations.
- The decision to keep a student at home for the day due to winter weather conditions shall be made by the parent.
- Students shall not be expected to wait for a school bus more than fifteen minutes past the scheduled pick up time. If the bus has not arrived by that time, students should return to their homes or another prearranged place of shelter.
- It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that students are appropriately dressed for the winter weather conditions.



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BUSING

A limited busing service is available.

The Catholic Independent Schools have contracted Diversified Transportation to provide busing service to our schools. There are three buses operating in most areas of the city. Details are available at the school office.

For information on routes contact Diversified Transportation at 250-563-5431 or contact the school office. Busing costs are available on the website. All students riding the bus must be registered. Students requiring busing must register and pay for the entire school year.

Behavior of Students: There is no place for misbehavior in any shape or form while riding the bus. Students must act in a manner that does not jeopardize their own safety or the safety of other students. At all times students must follow the directions of the driver.

The Motor Vehicle Act: A student is only allowed to bring luggage onto the bus that he/she is able to fit comfortably on his/her lap. The Motor Vehicle Act is very explicit about carrying luggage (i.e. ski poles, toboggans, sleds, skateboards, skates) onto the bus that will be a safety hazard to other students in the case of an accident.

Be certain that students are at the bus stop on time, at least 5 minutes before the scheduled time. In case of delay, students should return home 15 minutes after the scheduled time. Parents must make provision for this type of situation. Should it be necessary for a student to ride a bus other than the one he/she is registered on, a written request must be submitted to the bus driver.

AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS PROGRAM

A variety of sports programs and intramurals may be offered throughout the school year:

Cross-country running	Grades 2 – 7 (Sept-Oct)
Volleyball	Grades 6 & 7 (Oct-Nov)
Basketball	Grades 6 & 7 (Jan-Mar)
Elementary Relays	Grades 3 – 7 (April)
Track and Field	Grades 3 – 7 (May-June)
Soccer	Grades 6 & 7 (May)

To sign up:

1. A meeting will be announced and all interested students should attend.
2. At the meeting, a permission slip containing all relevant information will be handed out.
3. The permission slip must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned by the deadline.
4. All rules, expectations and consequences will be listed on the permission slips.



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5. The school discipline policy is in effect during all after school sports programs.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES BEHAVIOR RULES

1. Only those who have definite transport arrangements may attend after school activities.
2. Parents' give permission for students to remain after school and have transportation arranged before students come to school.
3. Remain in the designated area (usually the gym) until dismissed by the teacher.
4. Leave the school premises immediately when dismissed by the teacher.
5. All school rules must be observed during all interschool activities, whether in or away from the school.

EXTRA CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

Additional extra-curricular programs vary from year to year but usually include Red Cedar Book Club, Choir, Yearbook, Leadership, and Chess.

ADDRESSING A PARENTAL CONCERN

Parent-Teacher Communication

As it is easier to handle a concern before it becomes a problem, parents and teachers are expected to contact one another over any behavior, academic progress or policy concern they may have. When parents have a concern it is imperative that they confer with the teacher first. If the concern cannot be resolved here, the principal should be informed so the best solution can be reached for the sake of the student. To facilitate positive communication between school and home, teachers are encouraged to make contact with all parents as early in the school year as possible.

The following policy mandated by the Catholic Independent Schools, Diocese of Prince George (CISPG) outlines the formal procedure we use to address parental complaints against school personnel:

Guidelines

- Step 1 A parent or guardian having a complaint about a teacher or other personnel should contact the person in question as the first step to resolution. If the complaint cannot be resolved satisfactorily proceed to Step 2.
- Step 2 The parent or guardian should contact the principal. If still unsatisfied, the parent or guardian should proceed to Step 3.



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Step 3 If the parent or guardian is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaint after contacting the principal, the parent or guardian can request the matter be dealt with by the school council. The parent or guardian shall address the complaint, in writing, to the school council. **Individual members of the School Council shall not entertain complaints.**

Step 4 If the parent or guardian does not receive satisfaction from the school council, an appeal, in writing, can be made to the Board of Directors through the Director of Education.

Step 5 The Board of Directors will arrange for an investigation of the appeal.

Thank You For Your Support!

We hope this booklet outlining our aims and policies is helpful to you. In co-operation with you, School Council and Staff at Immaculate Conception School, wish to ensure the best possible learning atmosphere for your child so that he/she can develop to their fullest potential as a child of God, now and in their journey through life.

Be sure to check out our school website. Information about our school, upcoming events, the monthly newsletter, and links for students and parents are all available at www.icschool.ca.