



Policy: Bullying Prevention & Intervention

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1.0 Policy Statement

- 1.1 The Superior North Catholic District School Board recognizes that providing students with an opportunity to learn and develop in a safe and respectful environment is a shared responsibility in which school boards and schools play an important role. In keeping with current legislation, the Board shall endeavour to ensure that the school environment is one of respect, dignity and trust consistent with the Gospel Values. All members of the school community, including staff, students, parents/guardians and visitors, will be respectful to one another and are responsible in helping to create a safe and caring school environment free from bullying.
- 1.2 It is the policy of the Superior North Catholic District School Board to use bullying prevention and intervention strategies which foster a positive learning and teaching environment for all students to help them achieve their full potential.

2.0 Guidelines

- 2.1 Bullying adversely affects students' well-being and ability to learn.
- 2.2 Bullying adversely affects healthy relationships and the school climate.
- 2.3 Bullying, including cyber-bullying, is a serious issue and is not acceptable in the school environment (including online), in a school-related activity, or in any other circumstances that will have an impact on the school climate.
- 2.4 Bullying adversely affects the ability to educate its students. Principals shall consult with Catholic School Councils about bullying prevention and intervention as a shared community responsibility.
- 2.5 The Board shall expect and support students to develop healthy relationships with others which support an effective learning environment in accordance with Catholic teachings.
- 2.6 The Board shall maintain a Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan reviewed every two years.
- 2.7 Bullying will not be accepted on school or Board property, at school related activities, on school buses, or in any other circumstances (eg. online) where engaging in bullying has a negative impact on the school climate.
- 2.8 The Board shall provide programs, interventions, and other supports for students who have been bullied, students who have witnessed incidents of bullying, and students who have engaged in bullying. The programs, intervention, and other supports may be provided by social workers, psychologists, or other professionals who have training in similar fields, as determined by the board.

3.0 Definition of Bullying

- 3.1 For the purposes of policies on bullying prevention and intervention, school boards must use the definition of bullying given in subsection 1(1) of the *Education Act*. The definition of bullying includes cyber-bullying, as such, all requirements identified under the *Education Act* and under policy/program memorandum 144 related to bullying also apply to cyber-bullying.

The definition of bullying, given in subsection 1(1) of the *Education Act* is:

- 3.1.1 "bullying" means aggressive and typically repeated behavior by a pupil (or any other person) where;

- a. the behavior is intended by the person to have the effect of, or the person ought to know that the behavior would be likely to have the effect of:
 - Causing harm, fear or distress to another individual, including physical, psychological, social or academic harm, harm to the individual's reputation or harm to the individual's property, or;
 - creating a negative environment at a school for another individual, **and**
 - b. the behavior occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance between the person and the individual based on factors such as size, strength, age, intelligence, peer group power, economic status, social status, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, family circumstances, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, disability or the receipt of special education.
- 3.2 Bullying – For the purposes of the definition of “bullying” in subsection (1), behavior includes propagating through the use of any physical, verbal, electronic, written or other means.
- 3.3 Cyber-Bullying – For the purposes of the definition of “bullying” in subsection (1), bullying includes bullying by electronic means (commonly known as cyber-bullying), including:
- 3.3.1 Creating a web page or a blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person;
 - 3.3.2 Impersonating another person as the author of content or messages posted on the internet and/or social media; and
 - 3.3.3 communicating material electronically to more than one individual or posting material on a website that may be accessed by one or more individuals.
- 3.4 Aggressive behaviour may be intentional or unintentional, direct or indirect. It can take many forms, including physical, verbal, and social. If aggressive behaviour is physical, it may include hitting, pushing, slapping, and tripping. If it is verbal, it may include name calling, mocking, insults, threats, and sexist, racist, homophobic, or transphobic comments. If it is social, or relational aggression, it is more subtle and may involve such behaviours as gossiping, spreading rumours, excluding others from a group, humiliating others with public gestures

or graffiti, and shunning or ignoring. Social aggression may also occur through the use of technology (e.g., spreading rumours, images, or hurtful comments through the use of e-mail, cell phones, text messaging, websites, social networking, social media, or other technology). Harm, as used in this memorandum, means harm that can be experienced in a number of ways, including physical, mental, emotional, and psychological.

References

- *Education Amendment Act*
- Bill 13
- *Education Act* (Sections 265(l)(m), 300.0.2 (1)(2), 302(1)(3)(4), 305, 306, Regs. 298, 472/07)
- Ontario Human Rights Code, Revised 2012
- Revised PPMs 128, 141, 142, 144, 145
- Provincial Code of Conduct
- Student Discipline
- Code of Conduct
- Equity & Inclusive Education
- Enrolment Register Instructions Elementary and Secondary
- [PPM 144 Bullying Prevention & Intervention](#)
- [PPM 145 Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour](#)

Approval and Review Dates

Prior Date Approved: February 11, 2013

Board Meeting Approval Date: June 21, 2022

Next Review Date: April, 2027

Reviewed by: Policy Review Committee, Administrative Council