

THE HURON-PERTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SUBJECT:

SAFE SCHOOLS

3D:7



POLICY STATEMENT:

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board is committed to working with families, parishes, and community partners in maintaining safe and orderly Christ-centred learning environments. We believe that Safe schools are a prerequisite for student achievement, and that students should feel safe and be safe in school and on school grounds. Bullying adversely affects students' abilities to learn and the school's ability to educate its students. It adversely affects healthy relationships and school climate. It is not acceptable on school property, in school-related activities, or in other circumstances resulting in a negative impact on school climate.

DEFINITIONS

Healthy Eating Environment: A healthy eating environment exists when a school promotes healthy eating through words and actions. Students are taught healthy eating lessons, and are given plenty of opportunities to practice what they learn.

Bullying: A form of repeated, persistent, and aggressive behaviour that is intended to cause, or should be known to cause, fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem, or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.

Cyberbullying: the use of information and communication technologies such as e-mail, cell phone, pager text messages, instant messaging, defamatory personal web-sites, and defamatory on-line personal polling web sites to support deliberate behaviour by an individual or group that is intended to harm others.

PROCEDURE:

1. The Board will establish a Safe Schools Task Force to work with Principals, Safe and Healthy School Teams, and community partners to support the work of each school's Safe and Healthy School Team.
2. School principals will establish a Safe and Healthy School Team. It will be composed of: student(s), teacher(s), principal, parent(s), support staff member(s) and community partner(s). The team will advise the principal on the bullying prevention their school will use, based on unique needs of their school culture.

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3. School principals will work with their Safe and Healthy School Team to implement a Bullying Prevention and intervention program that is part of the School Improvement Plan. It must:
 - define bullying and identify different forms of bullying;
 - address specific or unique issues identified in their school;
 - focus on healthy relationships;
 - include training and information for educators, students, and parents on bullying and bullying-prevention strategies;
 - take a multi-faceted approach including: school-wide education; specific and well-known interventions for bullies, victims, and by-standers;
 - be integrated into the curriculum;
 - have protocols for safe reporting of bullying incidents;
 - include intensive interventions and progressive discipline for repeat bullies.
4. School principals will work with their Safe and Healthy School Team to conduct regular evaluations of their school's Bullying-prevention program to determine the extent to which all aspects of step 3 (above) have been achieved.
5. The Safe and Healthy School Team will support a healthy eating environment by implementing and compiling with School Nutrition 3D:14 and PPM 150.

BOARD APPROVAL:

October 26, 1998
 August 30, 2004
 Reviewed May 22, 2006
 January 28, 2008
 June 20, 2011

EFFECTIVE DATE:

October 27, 1998
 August 30, 2004
 May 23, 2006
 January 29, 2008
 June 21, 2011