

DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

BOARD POLICY

Board Policy Number: 9.02
Subject: Bullying Awareness, Prevention and Intervention
Effective Date: February 1, 2008; Revised January 26, 2010; Revised (076) January 22, 2013 – Effective February 1, 2013

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board prohibits bullying in all its forms, as a serious offence against the dignity of persons created in God's image, and as an affront to the integrity of Catholic learning communities. Bullying adversely affects the student's ability to learn, adversely affects healthy relationships and school climate, and adversely affects the school's ability to educate its students. The Ministry of Education's *Bill 13 and Policy/Program Memorandum 144* (bullying prevention) together with the Board's *Catholic Code of Conduct* create expectations for behaviour for all persons on school and board property, and outline strategies to be taken to reduce incidents and impose appropriate consequences. The Board recognizes that the *Human Rights Code* of Ontario has primacy over provincial legislation and school board policies and other administrative documents. Bullying in any form will not be permitted on school property, either in classrooms or common areas, at school-related activities, on school buses, or in any other circumstances (including cyberbullying: i.e., through e-mail, cell phone, text, and instant messages, on websites and social networking sites). Engaging in bullying will have a negative impact on the Catholic school climate and disrupt the learning environment. The Board considers harassment on the basis of sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, race, colour, ethnicity, culture, citizenship, ancestry, origin, religion, creed, family status, socio-economic status, disability and/or any other immutable characteristic or ground protected by the *Human Rights Code* unacceptable. The Board supports the use of positive practices to prevent such behaviour and authorizes principals, or their delegates, to impose consequences in appropriate circumstances, up to and including a referral to the Discipline Committee of the Board for expulsion from all schools. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board supports the ongoing implementation, and monitoring of comprehensive system-wide plans for the creation of "bully-free" learning and working environments for all. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board will continue to promote compassionate responses to victims of bullying behaviours. The board will facilitate a restorative approach to bullying incidents that promotes, where possible, a process for making amends and reconciling relationships. The board will provide supports and programs for students who have been bullied, witnessed bullying or engaged in bullying.

This policy includes requirements described in the *Education Act* and/or *Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memoranda (PPM)* as matters of policy. More particularly, it is also aligned with the requirements in *Policy/Program Memorandum 144, Bullying Prevention and Intervention, Regulation 181/98, Identification and Placement of Exceptional Pupils*, Ministry documents, including *Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario: Supporting Students with Special Education Needs through Progressive Discipline, Kindergarten to grade 12, 2010, Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy, 2009, Ontario First Nation, Metis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework, 2007, and English Language Learners: ESL and ELD Programs and Services, 2007*, and *Bill 13, the Accepting Schools Act, 2012*. The board recognizes that the *Human Rights Code* of Ontario has primacy over provincial legislation and school board policies and other administrative documents.

Policy 9.02, Bullying Awareness, Prevention and Intervention

The Bullying Prevention Board Policy addresses the following areas of focus:

Purpose

Administration of the Bullying Prevention Policy

Ministry of Education Definition of Bullying

Establishing Bullying Prevention and School Safety

Upholding Bullying Prevention and School Safety

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