



Policy Manual – Students

S.M.15 – Bullying Prevention and Intervention

POLICY STATEMENT

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCD SB) holds sacred the view that each child is created in the image of God, and that every person must be treated with respect and dignity. Every student has the right to be safe and to feel respected in and around the school. **The HWCD SB is committed to creating schools that have bullying prevention and intervention policies in order to foster a positive learning and teaching environment that supports academic achievement for all students and that helps students realize the fullness of humanity of which our Lord Jesus Christ is the model.**

To achieve this policy, the following apply:

All Board staff recognize that bullying adversely affects a student’s ability to learn and participate. Bullying also adversely affects the school climate, including healthy relationships. Bullying will not be accepted on school property, at school-related activities, on school buses, or in any other circumstances (e.g., online) where engaging in bullying will have a negative impact on the school climate.

Purpose:

Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board schools are learning communities where everyone is accepted and feels as a valued and contributing member of the school community. The school community is one where all individuals experience a safe environment, and where there are prevention, intervention, and post-vention strategies to address bullying behaviours.

Definition – Bullying Behaviour

As per subsection 1(1) of the Education Act “bullying” means aggressive and typically repeated behaviour by a student where,

- i) the behaviour is intended by the student to have the effect of, or the student ought to know that the behaviour would be likely to have the effect of,
 - a) 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
 - b) creating a negative environment at a school for another individual, and



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Purpose cont'd

- ii) the behaviour occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance between the student 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.

Harm, as used in this policy, refers to harm that can be experienced in a number of ways, including physical, mental, emotional and/or psychological. If the 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 subtler 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, Internet websites, social networking, or other technology).

Responsibility: Senior Administration

Regulations:

Education Act

- Section 170 (1) 7.2 – Programs, Interventions & Other Supports
- Section 264 – Duties of Teacher
- Section 265 – Duties of Principal
- Section 300 – Reporting to Principal
- Section 300.3 – Notifying Parents
- Sections 306 – 309 – Suspension
- Sections 310 – 314 – Suspension, Investigation and Possible Expulsion
- PPM128 – Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct (2012)
- PPM144 – Bullying Prevention & Intervention (2012)
- PPM145 – Progressive Discipline & Promoting Positive Student Behaviour (2012)

Bill 13 – Accepting Schools Act (2012)

Board By-Law - 7.02

Related Board Committee: Religion, Family Life & Instructional Services

Policy Review Date:

BM Original Policy Approved June 1, 2004.

Revisions: 24 June 08, 05 Mar. 13, 20 June 17

To be reviewed every **three (3)** years