

# Policy No. II-40

<b>Bullying Prevention and Intervention</b>	
<b>Adopted:</b> April 15, 2008	<b>Last Reviewed/Revised:</b> May 21, 2024
<b>Next Scheduled Review:</b> 2026-2027	

~~Repealed Policies & Documents~~

- [I-43 Use of Technology and Digital Citizenship](#)
- [VI-62 Use of Technology and Digital Citizenship](#)
- [VI-63 Social Media](#)
- [II-12 Management of Student Behaviours Posing Imminent Physical Risk](#)
- [II-39 Progressive Discipline and Safety in School Code of Conduct – Suspensions and Expulsions](#)
- [VI-44 Progressive Discipline and Safety in Schools](#)
- [II-45 Equity and Inclusive Education](#)
- VI-





services or in other venues or locations, including virtual spaces. This policy applies to each act and/or incident as it relates to the definition of bullying as described in this policy, and considered by the Principal to be detrimental to the physical, emotional, cultural, and/or mental well-being of students. Bullying impedes the development of a positive school climate. A whole-school approach involving all education and community members is required to prevent bullying.

## References

[Bullying – We Can All Help Stop It](#)

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[Discipline, Kindergarten to Grade 12](#)

[Education Act](#)

[Municipal Freedom Information Protection and Privacy Act](#)

[Ontario's Education Equity Action Plan \(2017\)](#)

[Ontario First Nation, Metis and Inuit Education Policy Framework \(2007\)](#)

[Ontario Human Rights Code](#)

[Ontario School Code of Conduct – Standards of Behaviour](#)

[The Parent's Guide to the Provincial Code of Conduct \(2019\)](#)

[PPM 119 Developing and Implementing Equity and Inclusive Education Policies in Ontario Schools \(2013\)](#)

[PPM 128 Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct \(2024\)](#)

[PPM 144 Bullying Prevention and Intervention \(2021\)](#)

[PPM 145 Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour \(2018\)](#)

[School Climate Survey – Halton Catholic District School Board](#)

[Youth Criminal Justice Act](#)

## Definitions

**Bullying** - ~~Bullying is behaviour that makes the person being bullied feel afraid or uncomfortable. It~~ can be in the form of unwanted repeated aggression or happen one time. It can be carried out by one person or a group of people.







**School Climate:** The collective whole of the personal relationships within a school. A positive climate exists when all members of the school community feel safe, comfortable, and accepted.

## Principles

The HCDSB recognizes that student, staff, and community member conduct within our schools shall be rooted in the Gospel values and teachings of Jesus Christ, the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations, and the Board's Mission Statement and Governing Values.

The HCDSB recognizes the importance of providing a caring, inclusive, and safe environment in which responses to behaviour issues are shaped by informed consideration of the individual needs and circumstances in each situation.

The HCDSB recognizes that student, staff and community members have a responsibility to resolve conflict and differences in a respectful and civil manner with an equity and inclusion lens. The HCDSB recognizes that bullying of any type:

- o adversely affects students' ability to learn;
- o adversely affects healthy relationships and the learning environment for students, staff and community members;
- o adversely affects a school's ability to educate its students, and provide an equitable, safe and inclusive learning environment; and
- o will not be permitted on school property, at school or system-related activities/events, on school buses, or in any other circumstances (e.g. online/virtual space, off school property, or outside the regular school day hours) where engaging in bullying will have a negative impact on the learning environment.

The HCDSB acknowledges that open and ongoing dialogue among the principal, staff, parents/guardians and students is an essential component in creating a positive school climate in which everyone is safe and respected.

## Requirements

### Notifying Parents (as per PPM 145, s. 6)

Section 300.3 of the Education Act specifies when principals are required to notify the parents/guardians of students who have been harmed as the result of a serious student incident. Principals shall disclose the following information:

- o the nature of the activity that resulted in harm to the student;
- o the nature of the harm to the student;
- o the steps taken to protect the student's safety, including the nature of any disciplinary measures taken in response to the activity; and,
- o the supports that will be provided for the



Safe School Incident Reporting Tool for school Administrators and all staff as well as Procedure VI-102 for each student, staff, volunteer, or parent/guardian to report bullying incidents.

Providing support for students who have been bullied, interventions for students who have bullied others, and for students who have been affected by witnessing bullying.

The HCDSB will establish and provide annual professional development programs to educate ~~staff of the~~ Board about bullying prevention and strategies for promoting positive learning environments.

The HCDSB will review its Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan according to the Board's regular policy review cycle and shall solicit the views of students, educators, HCDSB staff, volunteers working in the schools, parents/guardians, Catholic School Councils, Safe Schools Teams, SEAC, CPIC, the Indigenous Education Advisory Council, HCDSB Ad Hoc and Steering Committees, social service agencies, and community-based organizations and partners.

The HCDSB will post its Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan on the HCDSB website.

The Principal will post HCDSB's Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan and the school's own