

# September 23rd, 2014 Northeastern Catholic District School Board

MEMBERS OF THE SAFE SCHOOLS TEAM:

*Cheryl Ricco*

*Sarah Demarais (OECTA Rep)*

*Rachel Batisse (CUPE Rep)*

*Angela Labonte (Community Rep from THU)*

*Anita Kirkland (Parent)*

*Tammy Perry (Parent)*

*Tanya Bowen (Parent)*

*Amanda Quehe (Parent)*

*Maureen Merrifield (Parent)*

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Northeastern Catholic District School Board (NCDSB) believes that all people are created in the image and likeness of God and that every person has the right to be treated with dignity, respect and fairness. The Board recognizes that a positive school climate exists when all members of the school community feel safe, included and accepted and actively promote positive behaviours and interactions. The NCDSB is committed to building and sustaining safe Catholic school communities where all members and stakeholders share the responsibility of eliminating violence in accordance with our Catholic faith and gospel values. The NCDSB believes that safe learning environments enable students to reach their full academic and spiritual potential.

## **DEFINITIONS**

### **Bullying**

Bullying means aggressive and typically repeated behaviour by a student where:

1. 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;
  - i. causing harm, fear or distress to another individual, including physical, psychological, social or academic harm, to the individual's reputation or to the individual's property, or
  - ii. creating a negative environment at a school for another individual, and
2. 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.

Bullying behaviour may include any of the following but is not limited to:

1. physical (example: hitting, pushing, slapping, and tripping);

2. verbal (example: name calling, mocking, insults, threats, and sexist, racist, homophobic, or trans-phobic comments);
3. social (example: gossiping, spreading rumours, excluding others from a group, humiliating others with public gestures or graffiti, and shunning or ignoring);
4. electronic (example: spreading rumours, images, or hurtful comments through the use of email, cell phones, text messaging, Internet websites, social networking, or other technology).

### **Cyber Bullying**

Cyber-bullying includes bullying by electronic means, which may include:

1. creating a web page or a blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person;
2. impersonating another person as the author of content or messages posted on the internet;

communicating material electronically to more than one individual or posting material on a website that may be accessed by one or more individuals.

## **AWARENESS STRATEGIES**

School climate surveys are completed a minimum of every two years and results are shared publicly. Our next school climate survey is scheduled for the fall of 2024.

The Code of Conduct is reviewed and shared with a broad range of stakeholders on an annual basis. Ongoing communication of expected behaviours, including a focus on defining bullying, is accomplished through announcements, classroom visits, student virtual virtue assemblies, monthly newsletters, and through various council meetings and activities.

Bullying Prevention week is celebrated actively by the Board and its schools, beginning the third Sunday in November. **This year we plan to have daily spirit activities that promote love and kindness:**

**Monday:** Odd Socks Day – we are all together even though we are different

**Tuesday:** Random Words of Kindness – classes will create a mural of kind words for their classmates

**Wednesday:** Random Acts of Kindness – the school community will be invited to perform random acts of kindness for others in the school and/or community

**Thursday:** Poster Contest: Kindness

**Friday:** School Assembly – Introduction of the ECCS Anti-Bullying Pledge post in main hall and have staff and students sign the pledge throughout the day

All schools have Safe Schools Teams who review school-based data to identify areas of concern related to bullying, and implement strategies to reduce incidences and provide ongoing support and learning for students.

## **PREVENTATIVE STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMS**

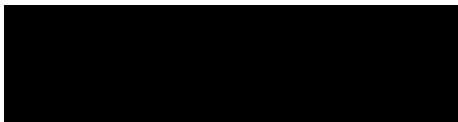
### **Student and Classroom Level**

- Provide opportunities for students to talk about bullying and define unacceptable behaviours.
- Involve students in establishing classroom rules to prevent bullying and to support a positive and welcoming classroom environment.
- Provide and regularly reinforce clear expectations for appropriate student behavior.
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## INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT STRATEGIES

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Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/equity.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/equity.pdf)

The Promoting Relationships & Eliminating Violence Network (PREVNet)

[www.prevnet.ca/](http://www.prevnet.ca/)

We All Belong

<http://www.copahabitat.ca/en/bullying/bullying-capsules>

Bullying – We Can All Help To Stop It

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/bullying-we-can-all-help-stop-it>

ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) online resources including <https://www.ccsa.ca/adverse-childhood-experiences>

Big Life Journals <https://biglifejournal.com/?srsId=AfmBOopyH3mrAt3yP-OATDFZtKOnWCPKqokr-YqMCB1TQosEfqCoTtKh>