

# 2025 Bullying Prevention and Intervention Strategy

“Let all that you do be done in love.” - 1 Corinthians 16:14

## Our Commitment

The Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB) 2025 Bullying Prevention and Intervention Strategy fosters a safe, inclusive, and faith-filled school community where students feel valued, supported, and respected. Grounded in Catholic teachings, the strategy promotes dignity, compassion, and reconciliation.

## Key Components of the Strategy

- **Prevention:** Faith-based learning, school-wide campaigns, staff training, and student voice.
- **Intervention:** Clear reporting pathways, swift response, and restorative practices.
- **Support:** Counselling, pastoral care, behaviour support for students impacted by bullying, and empowerment for bystanders.
- **Accountability:** Annual review of plans, biennial climate surveys, and continuous improvement.
- **Partnerships:** Engagement with parishes and community partners to foster safe, caring and inclusive schools.
- **Awareness:** Increase education and awareness of bullying prevention and intervention strategies with students, staff and families.

## Introduction

Our Catholic schools are guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ, emphasizing love, respect, and the inherent dignity of every person. This plan outlines how we prevent, respond to, and address bullying, ensuring a positive, safe and nurturing environment for all students.

### 1. Prevention

- **Faith-Centred Learning:** Incorporate Gospel values and social-emotional learning into lessons and daily school life supporting students to manage emotions and set goals while promoting kindness, empathy and inclusion.
- **Professional Development:** Equip staff with tools to prevent, recognize and address bullying.
- **Family Involvement:** Provide resources and workshops for parents on prevention and response strategies.

### 2. Reporting and Intervention

#### Reporting

At DCDSB, all students, staff and parent/guardians have a responsibility to report incidents of bullying as outlined in the [Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy \(PO612\)](#), administrative procedure and [DCDSB Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan](#).

## Response Process

DCDSB staff and students will follow guidelines as outlined in the DCDSB Bullying Prevention and Intervention administrative procedures. Responses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Ensure safety:** Support all students involved immediately.
- **Investigate:** Principal/designate leads a timely, confidential inquiry.
- **Notify families:** Keep parents/guardians informed throughout the process in accordance with Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) 144 and 145.
- **Document:** Record actions and outcomes for accountability and tracking purposes.

## 3. Supports and Consequences

- **Restorative Practices:** Encourage empathy, accountability, and reconciliation.
- **Student Supports (including but not limited to):** Counselling, peer support, pastoral care, behaviour plans, guided reflection, education and opportunities for leadership.
- **Progressive Discipline:** Responses range from restorative conversations, school-issued consequences such as detention and parent contact, up to and including suspension or expulsion, dependent on the severity of the incident.

## 4. Ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Track Incidents:** Review data to identify trends and improve responses.
- **Biennial Climate Survey:** Collect anonymous surveys from students, parents/guardians, and staff to understand the prevalence, locations, types of and reasons for bullying.
- **Regular Review:** Continuously reassess the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan based on feedback, evolving needs, and best practices.

## 5. Parish and Community Partnerships

The [DCDSB Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan](#) references many formal and informal partnerships that may support efforts to prevent and intervene in bullying incidents, including:

- **Parish Collaboration:** Faith leaders provide pastoral support and help nurture a Christ-centered environment.
- **Mental Health and Social Services:** External professionals offer counselling and resources.
- **Law Enforcement:** School liaison officers assist with prevention education and, when necessary, incident resolution.

## 6. Communication and Awareness

- Board and school administration collaborate to develop communication plans for students, staff and families, to prevent incidents of bullying as outlined in the DCDSB Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan.

## Conclusion

The Durham Catholic District School Board remains dedicated to nurturing a compassionate, inclusive, and Christ-centered community. By focusing on prevention, swift intervention, and ongoing support, we foster a culture where bullying has no place and every student can learn, grow, and thrive in faith and love.