

**THE PROTESTANT SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF PENETANGUISHENE**

POLICY MANUAL

POLICY TITLE:

SECTION/CODE:

Safe and Accepting Schools

School Operations D-51

APPROVAL DATE:

SUPERSEDES:

NUMBER OF PAGES:

REVIEW DATE:

November 11, 2024

November 9, 2020

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November 2028

1.0 POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1 The Protestant Separate School Board of the Town of Penetanguishene is committed to establishing and maintaining a safe and secure environment for its students, staff and community through the implementation of an effective Safe and Accepting Schools policy
- 1.2 The Protestant Separate School Board of the Town of Penetanguishene is committed to ensuring that Burkevale community is a safe and welcoming place for all students, staff and community partners. Creation of a positive learning environment is important. Students with a positive self-concept can more easily appreciate the needs and concerns of others, show respect for others, and resist negative peer pressure as it relates to requirements of the school.
- 1.3 No degree of violence, threat or risk to the safety of students or adults is acceptable in the school system. For any act of violence, however expressed, there will be an appropriate consequence, which may result in parallel but separate school and legal consequences.
- 1.4 All participants involved in the Protestant Separate School Board of the Town of Penetanguishene – students, parents, guardians, volunteers, staff and visitors – are included in this Policy whether they are on school property, on school vehicles or at school authorized events or activities or in other circumstances that could have an impact on the school climate.

2.0 Purpose

Policies will support and provide the direction necessary to achieve the board's Mission, Vision, Values and Strategic Plan priorities.

The Protestant Separate School Board of the Town of Penetanguishene recognizes that a whole school approach is necessary to promote a safe, inclusive and accepting school that creates a positive school climate.

Safety extends beyond freedom from violence and physical harm to emotional well-being, mutual respect and a sense of security.

Basic to a Safe and Accepting Schools policy is the premise that every student has the right to an education without disruption, and a corresponding responsibility not to deny this right to any other student.

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3.0 GUIDELINES

- 3.1 All members of the school community are to be treated with respect and dignity.
- 3.2 Members of the school community are encouraged to use non-violent means to resolve conflict and differences can be addressed in a manner characterized by respect and civility.
- 3.3 Staff, school bus drivers, as well as other third-party contractors, such as before-and-after school program operators, are required to report incidents of inappropriate behaviour to the school principal.
- 3.4 The principal will address disruptive behaviour in partnership with the school staff, the families and the community.
- 3.5 A progressive discipline approach will be used to address disruptive behaviour wherever possible.
- 3.6 Alcohol and illegal drugs present a health hazard. Burkevale Protestant Separate School will work cooperatively with police and other agencies to promote prevention strategies and, where necessary, will take appropriate action in response to those who are in possession of, or under the influence of, alcohol or illegal drugs.
- 3.7 In developing or reviewing School Codes of Conduct, the Principal will consult with the School Council as well as a variety of stakeholders.

4.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

The Supervisory Officer is authorized to establish administrative procedures to implement this policy, which shall be considered guidelines pursuant to the *Education Act*.

Procedures may include but are not limited to the following:

- 1. Code of conduct;
- 2. Student harassment;

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3. Police/school protocol;
4. Violent incident emergency response plan;
5. Elementary safe-arrival;
6. Access to schools;
7. Reporting child abuse;
8. Opening and closing exercises;
9. Appropriate dress;
10. Safe and caring schools procedures;
11. Reporting violent incidents.