

DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Section: 500 – SCHOOL ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT
Procedure #: 541.00
Subject: **PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES ON SCHOOL PROPERTY
 - STUDENT USE**
Reference: Board Policy 8.12
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Revised/Amended:-
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PREAMBLE

Existing and emerging mobile and smart technologies are presenting new challenges for Catholic educators in providing all members of our school communities with a safe Christ centred learning and working environment.

To achieve our Board's mandate under the Education Act and the Safe Schools Act 2000, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board has developed the Catholic Code of Conduct 2001 to help ensure a safe and productive learning and working environment for all members and guests of our school communities.

In the spirit of creating a positive Catholic climate for all our school communities, with the aim of improving student achievement, increasing school safety and protecting individual privacy, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board asserts that school Principals, in fulfilment of their legislative responsibilities under the Education Act, will regulate the use of personal electronic devices (PEDs) on school premises and during school-sanctioned activities.

REFLECTION

*Finally, all of you have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart,
 and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse;
 but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing.*

It was for this that you were called — that you might inherit a blessing.

*For those who desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their
 lips from speaking deceit; let them turn away from evil and do good;
 let them seek peace and pursue it.*

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer.
 But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.*

(1 Peter 3:8-12)

GENERAL DEFINITION OF A PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE (PED)

Personal Electronic Devices (**PEDs**) are **Wireless and/or Portable Electronic Handheld Equipment** that include, but are not limited to, existing and emerging **Mobile Communication Systems** and **Smart Technologies** (cell phones, smartphones, walkie-talkies, pagers, etc.), **Portable Internet Devices** (mobile managers, mobile messengers, BlackBerry™ handsets, etc.), **PDA**s (Palm® organizers, pocket PCs, etc.), **Handheld Entertainment Systems** (video games, CD players, compact DVD players, MP3 players, iPods®, Walkmen™, etc.), digital or film **Cameras**, digital or analogue **Audio Recorders** or **Video Recorders** (tape recorders, camcorders, etc.), **Spy Gadgets** (spy cameras, covert listening devices, etc.), and any other **Convergent Communication Technologies** that do any number of the previously mentioned functions.

PEDs also include any current or emerging **Wireless Handheld Technologies** or **Portable IT Systems** that can be used for the purpose of communication, entertainment, data management, word processing, wireless internet access, image capture/recording, sound recording and information transmitting/receiving/storing, etc.

CREATING A POSITIVE CATHOLIC CLIMATE

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board acknowledges that the dignity of the human person, as promoted by the Catholic Church, may be compromised by the potential for invasion of **personal privacy** made possible by the inappropriate use of PEDs on school premises.

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board also recognizes that the unregulated use of PEDs may pose a risk to the **individual safety** of students, staff and visitors in our schools. In some cases, unregulated use of PEDs may facilitate **illegal activities** in the school environment or during school -sanctioned activities; and,

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board realizes that the promotion of **academic excellence** and the preservation of **academic integrity** may be compromised by the unregulated use of PEDs during the instructional day, at assessment and evaluation times, and on formal examination days.

REQUIREMENTS

The application of this policy will follow the guidelines outlined in the Catholic Code of Conduct 2001 as mandated under the Safe Schools Act 2000. Each school Principal will incorporate into their local school's Catholic Code of Conduct the stipulations of this policy and its associated procedures. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, in acknowledgement of the potential for disruption to the instructional day and the possibilities of interference with school operations represented by the unrestricted use of PEDs, sets forth the following requirements:

A: Prohibited uses of PEDs that may result in disciplinary actions up to and including confiscation, detention, suspension, exclusion or expulsion, are as follows:

(Additional consequences for inappropriate use of PEDs may also include the involvement of police services.)

1. the use of PEDs that **compromises** the **academic integrity** of student assessment and evaluation (using PEDs during exams, tests, quizzes, assignments, projects, etc.);
 2. the use of PEDs that **interferes** with or **disrupts** the **academic day** or the **teaching-learning environment** (using PEDs in classrooms, instructional spaces, hallways, stairwells, etc.);
 3. the use of PEDs that **violates** a person's reasonable expectation of **privacy** (using PEDs in change rooms, washrooms, hallways, stairwells, or during a private meeting, etc.);
 4. the use of PEDs that **compromises** personal and/or school **safety** (using PEDs to bully or harass, etc./using PEDs during emergency such as an evacuation, lockdown, heightened risk situation, etc.);
 5. The use of PEDs that facilitates the **commission of a crime** (using PEDs to break federal, provincial or municipal laws);
 6. Any other use of PEDs that a school Principal deems **compromises** or **interferes** with **school security, personal safety, individual privacy or academic integrity**.
- B: Limited conditions under which a Personal Electronic Device (PED) may be used on school premises or during school-sanctioned activities:
1. The school Principal (or designate) may authorize an individual(s) to use a PED in the school premises (or during school-sanctioned activities) for a specific designated reason.
 2. The school Principal (or designate) may provide specific instruction to the school community pertaining to a limited acceptable use of PEDs in extraordinary circumstances including emergency conditions (evacuation, lockdown, heightened risk, etc.).

BOARD POLICY

It is the policy of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board that all PEDs be kept out-of-sight, turned off and not used within school premises (including portables) or during school-sanctioned activities (retreats, field trips, sports events, etc.).

Additionally the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board requires all schools to include in their student/parent handbooks the following School PED Policy statement accompanied by the General Definition of a PED (from this policy document).

**SCHOOL POLICY ON THE USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES
(PEDs) by Students on School Property**

To promote respect for the dignity of all members of our school community and to enhance student achievement and safety, the use of a PED is strictly prohibited in the school (including portables) or during school related activities (such as retreats, field trips, sports events, etc.).

Failure to comply with this policy may result in the confiscation of the PED and/or disciplinary action as outlined in the Catholic Code of Conduct 2001. The school and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board assume no responsibility for the loss, recovery, repair or replacement for any PED brought onto school property.

It is the policy of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board that PEDs are to be kept out-of-sight, turned off and not used within school premises or during school sanctioned events. To prevent the loss or damage of PEDs, the school encourages students to leave their PEDs at home or in their lockers.