



<u>DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD</u> <u>BOARD POLICY</u>	
BOARD POLICY NUMBER:	P-4012
SUBJECT:	Keeping Children Safe: Duty to Report
REFERENCE:	P-5002 : Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy P-0008 : Equity and Inclusive Education P-0011 : First Nation, Métis And Inuit Students, Self- Identification P-3002 : Indigenous Education GAP4013 : Child in Need of Protection: Reporting Procedure GAP4014 : Anti-Human Trafficking Protocol: Keeping Students Safe
EFFECTIVE DATE:	October 2022

“For surely I know the plans for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”
Jeremiah 29:11

1. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) believes that safe schools are critical to students’ well-being, positive experiences, and sense of belonging. DPCDSB promotes safety by building a culture of care to prevent and respond to risks, including a **duty to report children in need of protection** to the local Children’s Aid Society.
2. Section 125 (1) of the [Child, Youth and Family Services Act \(2017\)](#) (amended, 2021) provides direction for reporting a child in need of protection to a Children’s Aid Society¹. This includes a child that is or may be suffering from abuse or neglect by a caregiver, or by a person having charge of the child. Every person who has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is "in need of protection" shall immediately report the suspicion and the information upon which it is based to a Children's Aid Society. This duty to report **applies to all employees**, coaches and trainers, volunteers, and parents/guardians of the Board.
3. Educators and staff play a powerful role to safeguard the physical and mental health and well-being of children and youth by recognizing, preventing, and responding to sex trafficking in culturally sensitive ways. They identify the warning signs of human trafficking and safely connect those who have been or are at risk of being trafficked to the appropriate responsive school and community programs and services.
4. DPCDSB recognizes the importance of consultation and outreach with Indigenous rightsholders, in the work to prevent and respond to human trafficking in (or within) Indigenous communities. As members

¹ In all cases in this procedure, the words Children's Aid Society applies to any local Children’s Aid Society located in the Province of Ontario.

of distinct, Self-Determining Nations ([P-3002](#)), Indigenous Peoples have the right to determine best approaches to the care and response to incidents of human trafficking. Reference: [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#).

5. DPCDSB recognizes the importance of including all stakeholders in the work to prevent and respond to human trafficking in our communities, including parent and student voice, outreach to Black and racialized communities, 2SLGBTQ+ communities and individuals with differing abilities and working with community partners across sectors to protect students from trafficking ([P-0008](#)). Students who are suspected of, or who have disclosed being trafficked require equitable and culturally safe educational materials and responses. The DPCDSB Anti-Human Trafficking Protocol ([GAP4014](#)) will guide the ongoing response to students who may be at risk of trafficking. The protocol will be reviewed every five years or as part of the Board's annual policy review cycle (whichever is shorter).
6. Board staff will respect confidentiality, privacy, and requirements for informed consent ([P-5002](#)) as they respond to students who are at risk for or have been engaged in human trafficking, and adhere to applicable legal requirements, including the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act; the Ontario Human Rights Code; the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005; the Education Act; and the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017. DPCDSB acknowledges the limits of confidentiality under the law, in particular section 125(1) of the updated Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017 that requires all adults to immediately report to the local Children's Aid Society any reasonable grounds to suspect that a child below the age of 16 is in need of protection, including with respect to incidents of human trafficking. In accordance with section 125(4) of the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017 and DPCDSB's policies, DPCDSB will also report any such reasonable grounds to suspect that a child aged 16 or 17 is in need of protection. ([GAP4013](#)).