



## Policy Manual – Students Miscellaneous

### S.M.22 Anti-Sex Trafficking

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*The mission of Catholic Education in Hamilton-Wentworth, in union with our Bishop, is to enable all learners to realize the fullness of humanity of which Our Lord Jesus Christ is the mode*

#### **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCD SB), in keeping with the Board’s Mission and Vision Statement, provides safe and inclusive environments for students; the protection of students from harm, including protection from sexual exploitation such as sex-trafficking, is of the highest priority. The *HWCD SB Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol* and accompanying documents support the Ontario Ministry of Education *Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) 166: Keeping Students Safe: policy Framework for School Board Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocols*. The *HWCD SB Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol*, and accompanying documents reflect the Catholic teachings of human dignity, recognizing that human beings possess a special value intrinsic to their humanity and as such are worthy of respect simply because they are human beings created in the image and likeness of God. The development and implementation of the *HWCD SB Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol* will include input from students, parents/guardians, and community organizations to ensure a safe and culturally responsive approach in the prevention, identification, and response to sex trafficking.

Through their commitment to placing Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church at the centre of students’ learning experiences, HWCD SB teachers and other HWCD SB school and Board staff are well positioned to support student safety and well-being: “a whole school approach, which involves all members of the school community, in supporting efforts to ensure that schools are safe, inclusive, and accepting.”

#### **Purpose**

The HWCD SB has developed the *HWCD SB Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol* as well as the *HWCD SB Anti-Sex Trafficking Procedures* and the *HWCD SB Anti-Sex Trafficking Resources* documents in response to addressing the identification, prevention, and early response to sex trafficking. The *HWCD SB Anti-Sex Protocol* includes the HWCD SB principles and practices of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility.

All HWCD SB school board employees, including teachers, administrators, and other Catholic school and Board staff, will be provided with anti-sex trafficking training, on a regular basis, to support employees to prevent, identify, and appropriately respond to occurrences or suspected occurrences of sex trafficking. Training will take a tiered and purposeful approach, consistent with roles and responsibilities.

The HWCDSB will collaborate with community agencies that have expertise in anti-sex trafficking, including but not limited to Hamilton Police Services, local child welfare agencies, community organizations, as well as culturally relevant service providers.

The HWCDSB will develop and implement the *HWCDSB Anti-sex Trafficking Protocol*, that include the following statement of principles:

- a) HWCDSB Board and School staff roles and responsibilities;
- b) Roles for HWCDSB parents/guardians/caregivers;
- c) HWCDSB student input;
- d) Build multi-sectoral relationships with community organizations;
- e) Safe interventions;
- f) Respect for confidentiality, privacy, and informed consent;
- g) Build school based prevention;
- h) Promote equitable and culturally safe responses.
- i) Catholic Faith Teachings

**Responsibility:** School Principals, Senior Administration, Superintendent of Safe Schools

### **Regulations**

Accepting Schools Act, 2012, Bill 13

Child, Youth, and Family Services Act, 2017

Combatting Human Trafficking Act, 2021

Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996

PPM 9: Duty to Report Children in Need of Protection, 2001

PPM 119 – Developing and Implementing Equity and Inclusive Education Policies in Ontario Schools

PPM 166 Keeping Students Safe: Policy Framework for School Boards Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocols, 2021

Protecting Students Act, 2016

### **Related Policies**

A.04 Equity and Inclusion Education

A.11 Internet and Electronic Communications – Acceptable Use for Employees

A.12 Personal Mobile Devices (PMDs)

S.15 Internet-Acceptable Use Policy for Schools

S.M.08 Safe Schools

405 H20 Professional Development: Leadership Role in Creating Safe Environments for Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Exploitation

### **Related Board Committee Committee of the Whole**

### **Policy Review Date**

BM original policy approved 21 June 2022

Revisions:

To be reviewed every five years