

Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board



Section: Students
POLICY ST: 26 Concussions

NUMBER:	ST: 26
EFFECTIVE:	Jan 27, 2015
AMENDED:	
RELATED POLICIES:	See References
REPEALS:	
REVIEW DATE:	2019-2020

1.0 OBJECTIVE:

- 1.1 To ensure that practices and strategies are implemented throughout the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board community that:
- i) Develop awareness of the seriousness of concussions;
 - ii) Assist in preventing and identifying concussions;
 - iii) Address the management of diagnosed concussions; and
 - iv) Provide for the training of Board and school staff.

2.0 DEFINITIONS:

2.1 A concussion:

- is a brain injury that causes changes in the way in which the brain functions and that can lead to symptoms that can be physical (e.g., headache, dizziness), cognitive (e.g., difficulty in concentrating or remembering), emotional/behavioural (e.g., depression, irritability), and/or related to sleep (e.g., drowsiness, difficulty in falling asleep);
- may be caused either by a direct blow to the head, face, or neck or by a blow to the body that transmits a force to the head that causes the brain to move rapidly within the skull;
- can occur even if there has been no loss of consciousness (in fact most concussions occur without a loss of consciousness);
- cannot normally be seen by means of medical imaging tests, such as X-rays, standard computed tomography (CT) scans, or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans; and
- is a clinical diagnosis made only by a medical doctor or a nurse practitioner. Educators, school staff, or volunteers cannot make the diagnosis.

2.2 Second Impact Syndrome:

- Injuries that result from a concussion may lead to “second impact syndrome”, which is a rare condition that causes rapid and severe brain swelling and often catastrophic results, if an individual suffers a second concussion before he or she is free from symptoms sustained from the first concussion.

3.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- 3.1 The Board is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of students and recognizes that health and safety of students are essential preconditions for effective learning.
- 3.2 Research demonstrates that a concussion can have a significant impact on a student – cognitively, physically, emotionally and socially.
- 3.3 Proper recognition and response to concussion in the school environment can prevent

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further injury and assist with recovery.

4.0 SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES:

- 4.1 Administration shall develop procedures that comply with the requirements of Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum No. 158, and that:
- i) Develop awareness of the seriousness of concussions;
 - ii) Assist in preventing and identifying concussions;
 - iii) Address the management of diagnosed concussions; and
 - iv) Provide for the training of Board and school staff.

5.0 RESPONSIBILITY:

- 5.1 Senior Administration shall administer this policy.
- 5.2 Principals shall implement this policy and all administrative procedures established to support the policy.
- 5.3 It is the responsibility of all staff and volunteers, including all coaches, to follow this policy and all related administrative procedures.
- 5.4 It is the responsibility of students and parents/guardians to gain awareness of concussions and collaborate with the school to manage suspected or diagnosed concussions appropriately.

6.0 REVIEW AND EVALUATION:

- 6.1 The effectiveness of this policy shall be accessed through Trustee, staff and community satisfaction measures.
- 6.2 This policy will be reviewed in the 2019 – 2020 policy review cycle.

7.0 REFERENCES:

Education Act and Regulations

Policy Program No. 158, School Board Policy on Concussion, Ministry of Education, March 19, 2014.

Ontario Physical Education Safety Guidelines, OPHEA (Ontario Physical and Health Education Association) <http://safety.ophea.net/>;

Concussion Web Portal, Government of Ontario, www.ontario.ca/concussion

Parachute Canada at www.parachutecanada.org

Canadian Pediatric Society at www.cps.ca/en

Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation at <http://onf.org/documents/guidelines-for-pediatric-concussion>

Ontario School Board's Insurance Exchange

Other related policies of the Board which support this policy are:

- SC: 04 and Pr SC: 04 Field Trips/Excursions
- ST: 11 and Pr ST: 11 Student Health Support
- ST: 15 Accidents/Students