

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you. For the one who asks, always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened” Luke: 11. 9-11.

Sept 1, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians;

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) is a faith-filled community in which every learner is sacred, created in the image of God. Respect for human dignity is the foundation of equitable and inclusive education. When the safety of a child or youth may be at risk, DPCDSB collaborates with the *Peel Children’s Aid Society* in Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon, and *Dufferin Child and Family Services* in Dufferin County, including Orangeville. These organizations are mandated to help, support, and strengthen families, so children and youth are safe and well.

At times, school staff may become aware of students who are experiencing difficulties. It is not the school’s responsibility to investigate, evaluate or assign blame. It is everyone’s responsibility to help keep all children safe.

It is the law in Ontario that every person within the school board who suspects that a child may be experiencing abuse, neglect or risk of harm must report this directly to the appropriate Children’s Aid Society ([Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017, amended 2021](#)). This includes reporting suspected or confirmed cases of human/sex trafficking ([Bill 251](#)).

Concerns must be shared with the appropriate Children’s Aid Society so that a support plan is developed with families to ensure the safety of the child. When a report to Children’s Aid is made, school and community-based resources may be offered to help resolve concerns or issues. The DPCDSB also continues to support students who are in the care of the Children’s Aid societies.

It is the sacred trust of DPCDSB to ensure the safety and well-being of all learners, so that every student can thrive.

Sincerely,

Lucy Papaloni

L. Papaloni
Superintendent, Special Education and Learning Services

Pina Grosso

P. Grosso, MSW, RSW
Chief Social Worker