



Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

SECTION: 500 – SCHOOL ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT
GAP NUMBER: 542.00
SUBJECT: **Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs) on School Premises –
Use of, By Employee and Visitor**
REFERENCE: Board Policy 8.12
EFFECTIVE: January 30, 2007
REVISED/AMENDED: January 1, 2011
REPLACES: 542.00

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

*Show yourself in all respects a model of good works,
 And in your teaching show integrity, gravity,
 And sound speech that cannot be censured;
 Then any opponent will be put to shame,
 Having nothing evil to say to us.*

(Titus 2: 7 – 8)

GENERAL DEFINITION OF A 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 understands that board employees are religious and moral role models for the students placed under their care. In this light, all board employees, as well as visitors, are expected to regulate their use of PEDs in accordance with policy contained herein.

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: Though school employees may use a PED in the privacy of their office or in areas that students are excluded from, the following are prohibited uses of PEDs:

1. the use of PEDs that **compromises** the **academic integrity** of the school or individual within the school.
2. the use of PEDs that **interferes** with or **disrupts** the **academic day** or the **teaching-learning environment**.
3. the use of PEDs that **violates** a person's reasonable expectation of **privacy**.
4. the use of PEDs that **compromises** personal and/or school **safety**.
5. The use of PEDs that facilitates the **commission of a crime**.
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 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 purpose**.
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, hold and secure, etc.).

BOARD PED POLICY

It is the policy of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board that all PEDs be 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 the within policy document).

SCHOOL PED POLICY

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.