

**ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
SECTION C: STUDENTS**

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT	POLICY
EFFECTIVE: 2000 12 01 / 2006 10 24 / 2010 09 29 / 2016 05 24	

POLICY STATEMENT:

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board, consistent with its commitment to the safety and well-being of children, acknowledges a moral and legal responsibility to report any suspicions of child abuse and neglect. The Board respects that legislation, namely the Child and Family Services Act, 2001, requires all staff and volunteers to report any concerns or suspicions with respect to the harming of children by parents and other caregivers.

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board is committed to ensuring that all staff and volunteers are aware of the legal responsibility to report concerns and working collaboratively with local Children's Aid Societies to ensure that reporting occurs in a timely and appropriate manner.

POLICY GOALS:

1. St. Clair Catholic District School Board employees will exercise their responsibility for the reporting of suspected abuse and neglect of children as required by the *Child and Family Services Act*.
2. Teachers, principals, vice principals, professional support staff and other personnel it employs, will report to the relevant agency when they have "reasonable grounds to suspect" physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or emotional harm to a student, with sufficient detail to enable the agency to undertake its investigation. For the purpose of this policy the Sarnia-Lambton Children's Aid Society and the Chatham-Kent Children's Services will be referred to as "Children's Aid Society (CAS)".
3. Support the Board's commitment to a safe, respectful and nurturing environment for all students.