

PRINCE ALBERT ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 6

POLICY ITEM: Interrogation of Students by Outside Agencies	CODE: IEF
LEGAL STATUS: Board Motion #136.07	DATE APPROVED: 28 May 07

Background: Catholic Education exists to assist the family in its basic and essential role of teaching children. The relationship between the Catholic school and each family must be based upon trust. This trust relationship must not be taken lightly by staff or parents since this relationship is essential in providing the best possible Catholic education for each child. The Board of Education acknowledges that civilian authorities, such as the police, may be required to interrogate students in school during school hours because of very special circumstances. However, the Board believes that this interrogation process can only occur once parents have been informed and have the opportunity to be present or direct persons to be present to act in their best interest.

POLICY: **The Board of Education directs that any interrogation of students during school hours may only occur in the company of the parent/guardian of the child, authorized social worker, or a person designated by the parent to act in the best interest of the child. Furthermore, the Board directs each principal to ensure the implementation of this policy in their school.**

- Guidelines:**
1. Any person wishing to interrogate students during school time must first receive the permission of the principal or his/her designate in order to begin the interrogation.
 2. Each principal is directed to contact parents immediately before allowing the interrogation process to begin. If a principal is unable to directly contact a parent/guardian, the principal is to contact the Director of Education or designate. The only exceptions to this guideline are:
 - a) A student who is 18 years of age or older. In this case, the principal is to ask whether or not the adult student wishes to have the principal remain through the interrogation process.
 - b) When a duly authorized social worker from the Department of Community Resources and Employment is investigating child abuse/neglect that involves the parent(s), (see Policy IGE). In this case the principal is not expected to be present for the interrogation.
 3. In the event that a parent or guardian requests a principal or vice-principal to represent their parental interests during the interrogation process, the principal has the option to do so or to call the Director of Education or designate to fulfil this role. It is important that the principal or designated administrator, acting "in loco parentis" recognize that their role is to protect the best interests of the child during an interrogation process.

4. The principal may refuse to allow an interrogation process on school property. In this case, the principal is to directly contact the Director of Education or designate in order to receive direction as to what the next course of action may be.