



Greaves Adventist Academy
Montreal Campus

POLICY: SUSPECT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT	CODE: 8
Origin: Administration Authority: Greaves Adventist Academy School Board Reference(s): Youth Protection Act (1989)	

POLICY STATEMENT

1. In compliance with Section 39 of the revised Youth Protection Act (1989), in the event that an employee of Greaves Adventist Academy is of the opinion that, at the moment of the suspicion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the security or development of a child is in danger (Sections 38 and 38.1 of the Youth Protection Act), the employee shall report the incident directly to the Department of Youth Protection.
2. All School employees shall be expected to be familiar with current Board policy and procedures regarding their obligations under the Youth Protection Act.



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POLICY: SUSPECT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT	CODE: 8
Origin:	Greave Adventist Academy Administration
Authority:	Greaves Adventist Academy School Board
Reference(s):	Youth Protection Act (1989) Actions Allegations of Sexual Abuse at Greaves Adventist Academy

PURPOSE

To provide the procedures to be followed in reporting a case of child abuse.

GENERAL

Section 39 of the Youth Protection Act states the following:

“Every person, even one having privileged information, who has reasonable cause to believe that the security or development of a child is in danger within the meaning of paragraph g of Section 38, is bound to bring the situation to the attention of the director without delay.

Every professional who, by the very nature of his profession, provides care or any other form of assistance to children and who, in the discharge of his duties, has reasonable cause to believe that the paragraph a, b, c, d, e, f, or h Section 38 or with the meaning of Section 38.1, is bound to bring the situation to the attention of the director without delay. The same obligation devolves upon any employee of establishment, any teacher or any policeman who, in the discharge of his duties, has reasonable cause to believe that the security or development of a child is or may be considered to be in danger with the meaning of the said provisions.

Any person, other than a person contemplated in the second paragraph, who has reasonable cause to believe that the security or development of a child is or may be considered to be in danger within the meaning of paragraph a, b, c, d, e, f, or h of Section 38 or within the meaning of Section 38.1 may bring the situation to the attention of the director.

The first and second paragraphs do not apply to an advocate who, in the discharge of his profession, receives information respecting a situation contemplated in Section 38 or 38.1.”

PROCEDURE

1. In accordance with the above, all Board employees who have reasonable cause to believe that the security or development of a child is or may be in danger shall be bound to bring the situation to the attention of the Director or Youth Protection without delay.
 - a. Batshaw and Family Centres
(Youth Protection Division) 935-6196
 - b. Les Centres Jeunesse de Montréal 896-3300
2. Any employee, who is unsure that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a child's physical or mental health may be affected by abuse or neglect, may discuss this situation with the principal or other individuals (e.g. teacher, Youth Protection personnel), where deemed necessary, in order to establish whether or not there is a reasonable cause to signal the case. Similarly, in the case involving a school administrator, the employee may discuss the case with that individual's immediate superior or the School Board.

If the employee does not have reasonable cause to believe that abuse or neglect has taken place, no further action needs to be taken.

With respect to an allegation of sexual abuse of a pupil involving a Greaves member or volunteer, refer to the set of procedures outlined in the document.

3. In accordance with Section 44 of the Act, "No person shall reveal or be compelled to reveal the identity of a person who has acted in accordance with Section 39 or 42 without his consent".
4. It shall not be the responsibility of the employee who reported the abuse or neglect, or to determine whether the child is in need of protection. Therefore, any personal interview or physical examination of a child shall only be carried out in the line of normal daily responsibility of the social service professional so designated by the Director of Youth Protection.
5. In case of suspected physical and /or sexual abuse of a pupil (under 18 years of age) by a Greaves employee/ volunteer, four (4) sectors may be involved in the subsequent investigation: the Department of Youth Protection, the police, the courts and the establishment (i.e Board). The Department of Youth Protection shall coordinate the collaboration efforts of the four (4) above-mentioned sectors in such an investigation.

6. Student Transfers

When the student under Youth Protection transfers to another school, the school administrator or head teacher shall inform the school social worker as soon as possible after being made aware of the transfer.

7. Prolonged Absence

When the student Under Youth Protection is absent from school for more than three(3) consecutive days, the school administrator shall inform the social worker on that third day.