

“Were you talking about my child?”

Classroom teachers are part of a team of people committed to helping students succeed. Each school has a School Team that meet regularly to monitor student progress and discuss any concerns arising about a student. They serve as a resource for teachers and can sometimes provide direct support for students. Together, they work to ensure the best possible success for students.

When school teams need additional input, they consult with Board level staff who provide specialized knowledge and skills in areas such as teaching literacy or numeracy, or programming for students with special needs, or managing students with challenging behaviour.

Parent/guardian consent is required for a student to be referred for specialized assessment or interventions. However, your child’s teacher and the school team may consult with others within the school or the Board at any time to ensure that the best possible programming is provided to all students, regardless of their strengths or challenges. Consent is not required to consult with other Board staff.

Additionally, any staff member who has a concern about possible child abuse or neglect is required to share that concern with child protection authorities without consulting the family. They are compelled not only by the Child and Family Services Act (RSO 1990 c.C11), but out of our shared responsibility to protect the safety and well-being of all children and youth, and to support families in distress.

In all conversations about students, we are committed to the protection of privacy. The collection of or sharing of private information is done in accordance with all applicable municipal, provincial, and federal legislation, and our own Privacy Policy. Conversations are conducted with professionalism and respect for the dignity of the students and families and information is shared only to the extent that it contributes to student success or is necessary for the protection of a child.

If you would like to know more about the Problem-Solving Process that schools follow, about the supports offered by the Board, or our Privacy Policy you can visit the board website or contact the school Principal. If you are interested in learning more about the applicable legislation that affects privacy, disclosure, and reporting of concerns, the following websites can guide you through the legislation.

Child & Family Services Act: <http://www.fcsgw.org/protecting-children/duty-to-report/>

Information & Privacy Commissioner of Ontario: <https://www.ipc.on.ca/images/resources/hguide>

Government of Canada Office of the Privacy Commissioner: <https://www.priv.gc.ca/>