



Algoma District School Board

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Police Interviews at School – What Parents/Guardians Should Know

Our schools follow a clear and respectful process when police need to speak with students as part of an investigation. This process is guided by a regional protocol developed in partnership with local police and school boards.

Generally, police will try to interview students outside of school hours and away from school property for routine investigations.

However, in urgent situations, or where the principal or vice-principal has reached out to police for assistance, police may need to speak with a student at school who is involved in an investigation – as a witness, victim, or suspect. If this happens, the following steps are taken:

- (1) **Principal or Designate Notification:** The principal or designate must be informed by police before an interview takes place and give their permission. If immediate action is needed, the school will be notified as soon as possible afterward.
- (2) **Parental/Guardian Notification:**
 - If your child is under 18, you will be contacted before any police interview takes place at school—unless doing so could harm the student or if a parent/guardian is involved in the incident.
 - If your child is 16 or 17 and has withdrawn from parental control, or is 18 or older, they can decide whether to involve you.
 - If parents/guardians refuse to allow the interview at school, the police will be asked to speak to the student elsewhere.
- (3) **Support During Interviews:** The principal or vice-principal will be present during the interview unless your child requests otherwise. If your child prefers not to be interviewed at school or without you present, the police will be asked to arrange the interview elsewhere.
- (4) **Privacy and Special Needs:** Interviews are held in private, and the school will inform police of any learning needs or communication challenges your child may have.
- (5) **If Your Child is Absent:** In certain cases, the school may share basic contact information with police, as allowed by privacy laws, to help them follow up outside of school.

These steps are in place to ensure student safety, respect their rights, and keep families informed and involved whenever appropriate. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your school's principal.