Greater Essex County District School Board

Policy: Vandalism/Theft

Reference No: P-PL-04

Vandalism is defined as the deliberate damaging or defacing of property, including theft of property, owned by or under the control of the Greater Essex County District School Board, and without restricting the foregoing, it will be deemed to include the offences contained in the relevant Criminal Code of Canada.

The Greater Essex County District School Board will not tolerate vandalism to its schools/sites or on its property at any time. It is the policy of the Greater Essex County District School Board to seek restitution for vandalism whenever possible and appropriate.

Greater Essex County District School Board

Regulation: Vandalism/Theft

Reference No: R-PL-04

Vandalism is defined as an action involving deliberate destruction of or damage to property. Vandalism and theft deplete resources that would otherwise be dedicated to facilitating a positive and safe learning environment. It is a priority of the Greater Essex County District School Board to protect school property and discourage vandalism and theft.

To prevent vandalism and theft, the Board continues to take the following actions:

- Encourage students to take pride in their school by caring for school grounds and treating all school property with respect;
- Engage with the community and local police to report any suspicious behaviour.

When property damage is discovered, it will be up to the principal or designate to determine whether the damage is a result of vandalism or theft. If the damage is due to vandalism or theft, the following steps will be taken:

1. Facility Services will be contacted to immediately safeguard the school premises and ensure that the damage has not created an unsafe learning environment for students.
2. If the individual(s) that perpetrated the vandalism or theft are known, the principal will speak to the parties involved and their parents / guardians. Acts of deliberate damage, destruction or misappropriation of school property will result in student discipline, and restitution may be pursued.
    a. Student discipline will be administered within the parameters of *the Education Act of Ontario* and the *Safe Schools Act*, and in accordance Board policies and procedures, including “Safe Schools – AD-16” and “Suspensions and Expulsions AD-15”.
    b. Should the Board pursue restitution, the assessed damages will be communicated in writing to the parents / guardians of the responsible parties.
3. Vandalism that is hateful will be address in accordance with the Board policy and regulation “Human Rights AD-48”.
4. Vandalism of student property will be addressed in accordance with the Board policy and regulation “Human Rights AD-48”.
5. Depending on the nature of the vandalism or theft, and if deemed appropriate by the principal, the police may be involved.
6. When acts of vandalism or theft are perpetrated by parties that are not students of the Board, if deemed appropriate by the principal, the police may be involved.