



Northeastern Catholic District School Board

BEAR WISE PROTOCOL

APPLICATION AND SCOPE

The following precautionary measures may be enacted at the discretion of the Principal when nuisance bears become present in a schoolyard.

PROCESS

- 1.0 A bear sighting on or near school grounds must be reported immediately to the principal.
- 2.0 The school shall notify the proper authorities to report the bear sighting. In an emergency, the school shall call 911.
- 3.0 The principal upon verification of a bear sighting with a clear understanding that the animal is in the vicinity will inform staff about the bear sighting.
- 4.0 If a bear is sighted immediately outside of the fenced area that borders the school property or within the school grounds while students are outside at recess nutrition break or lunch hour, staff members on supervision duty will alert students and staff immediately. Each school should establish a standard procedure in this regard. This may include the use of a whistle.
- 5.0 Upon hearing the warning, the students must immediately walk slowly off the playground area and go directly into the school. The supervisor on duty must ensure that all students have vacated the school playground. **Students and staff should not run as this could encourage a bear to give chase.**
- 6.0 Students must enter the school immediately and proceed as quietly as possible to their classrooms.
- 7.0 All staff and students working within the school during the warning must also proceed immediately to their classrooms.
- 8.0 All teaching staff are required to take attendance promptly and must notify the office that all students are present and accounted for.
- 9.0 During school yard inspections, the custodian shall ensure that no attractants, like garbage or food, are left in the school yard.
- 10.0 Teachers are expected to instruct students of the appropriate procedures when a bear is present.
- 11.0 The Principal shall ensure that staff and students are compliant with the bear wise protocol.

DEFINITIONS

Nil.

RESOURCES

NCDSB Policy
E-23 Emergency Preparedness
NCDSB Administrative Procedure
APE023 Emergency Preparedness

REVIEW CYCLE

The Bear Wise protocol will be reviewed annually in all schools.
Changes to the protocol will be made as required.

AUTHORIZATION

Director of Education:

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Date:

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