

December 5, 2022

Occasionally, our schools are placed in Hold and Secure, or on rare occasions, in Lockdown, as a precautionary safety procedure for students and staff.

In most cases, these emergency procedures are initiated based on a police investigation in the vicinity of the school and are not related to an event or issue at the school.

What is the difference between a Lockdown and Hold and Secure?

LOCKDOWN

Lockdown is a procedure where the people in a building take refuge in a secure location, e.g., in offices or classrooms. Lockdown procedures are usually initiated when it is unsafe to evacuate the building.

Lockdown procedures are designed to minimize the risk of violence and increase the safety of students, staff, community, and visitors to schools, by restricting access and visibility by a threatening person or event either within or outside the school.

HOLD AND SECURE

Hold and Secure procedures are partial lockdowns and are initiated due to a threat outside the facility or in the neighbourhood, i.e., serious environmental/physical threat is present outside of the facility or in the neighbourhood, and prevention measures need to be enacted to protect individual(s) from leaving the facility and entering an area of danger or prevent the threat from entering the facility.

In this situation, the school continues to function in a near-normal state, with the exception that all exterior doors and windows are locked, and no-one enters or exits the building without permission from the police or Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) staff.