

# Growing Responsible, Ethical and Sustainable School Board Governance


Toronto Catholic District School Board  
November 6 2010



*Our  
Moral  
Purpose*



# Goals

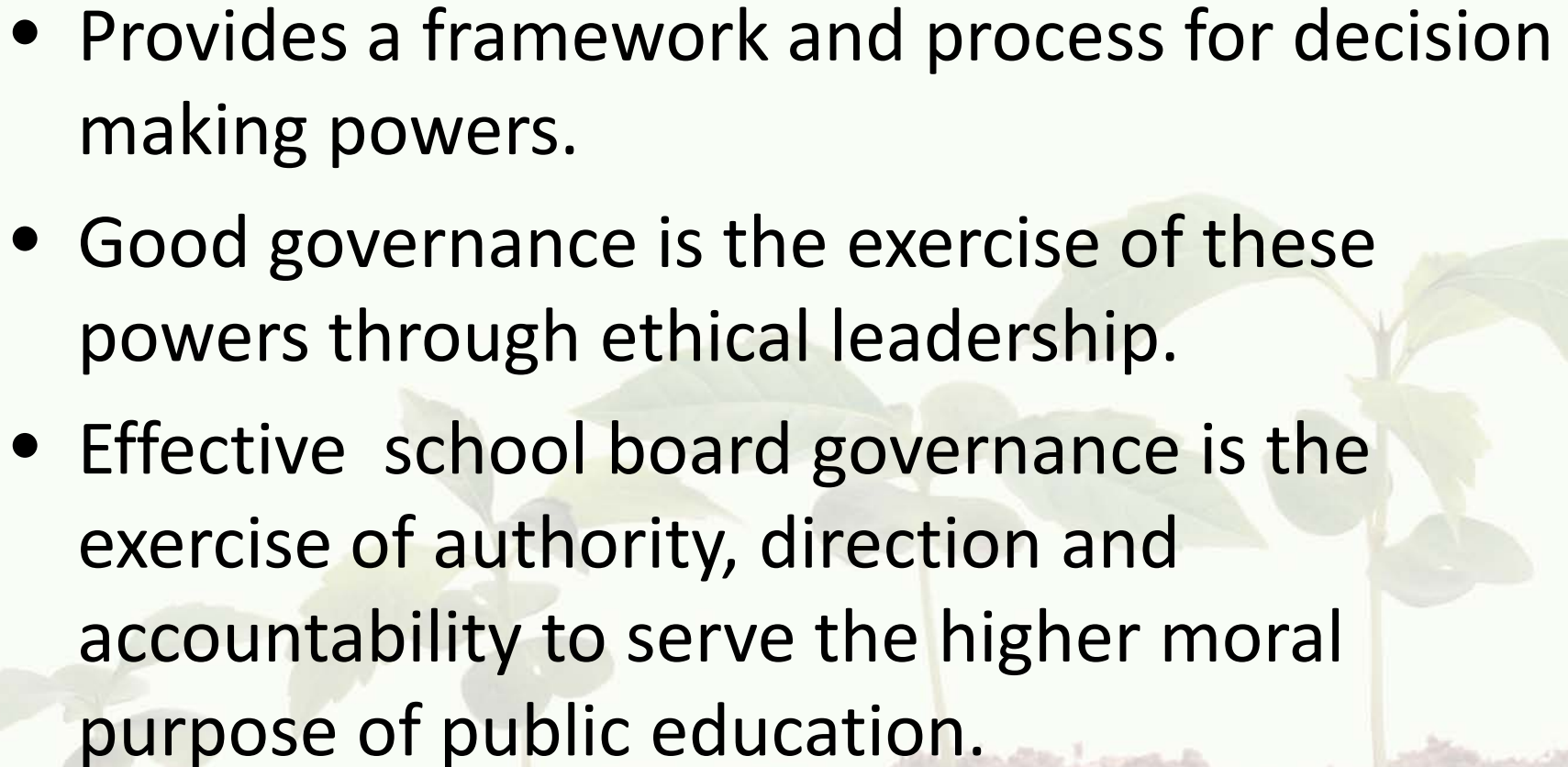
- Set context for focus on governance
  - Anchor governance in mission & vision
  - Define good governance
  - Identify role of parents in good governance
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# Context

- Ministry Supervision
- Bill 177
- Provincial Interest Regulation
- System Priorities
- Good Governance & Leadership  
& Learning

# What is Governance?

- Provides a framework and process for decision making powers.
  - Good governance is the exercise of these powers through ethical leadership.
  - Effective school board governance is the exercise of authority, direction and accountability to serve the higher moral purpose of public education.
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- A faint, artistic background image of a young green plant with several leaves growing out of a bed of dark brown soil. The image is semi-transparent and serves as a decorative backdrop for the text.



# Bill 177

- Student achievement
- Effective stewardship of resources
- Development of multi-year plans
- Establishing an audit committee
- Supporting, monitoring and evaluating performance of the director of education



# Provincial Interest Regulation

- Academic achievement of students
  - Student health and safety
  - Good governance of the school board
  - Performance of the board and director
  - Parent involvement
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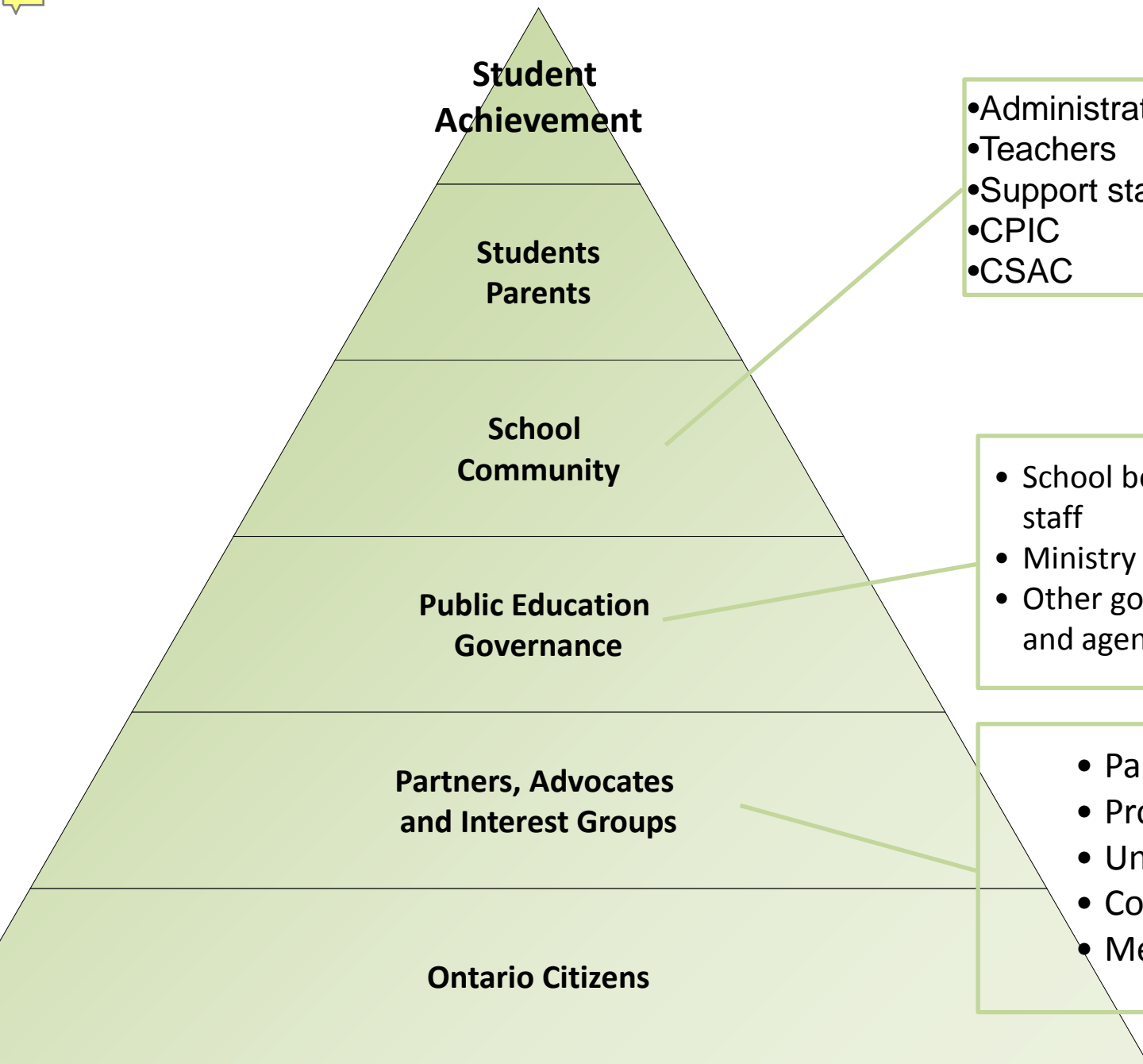
# Mission

To educate students to their full potential in a learning community formed by Catholic beliefs and traditions.



# Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations

- **A discerning believer**
- **An effective communicator**
- **A reflective, creative and holistic thinker**
- **A self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner**
- **A collaborative contributor**
- **A caring family member**
- **A responsible citizen**



**Student  
Achievement**

- Administrators
- Teachers
- Support staff
- CPIC
- CSAC

**Students  
Parents**

**School  
Community**

- School board trustees & district staff
- Ministry of Education
- Other government ministries and agencies serving children

**Public Education  
Governance**

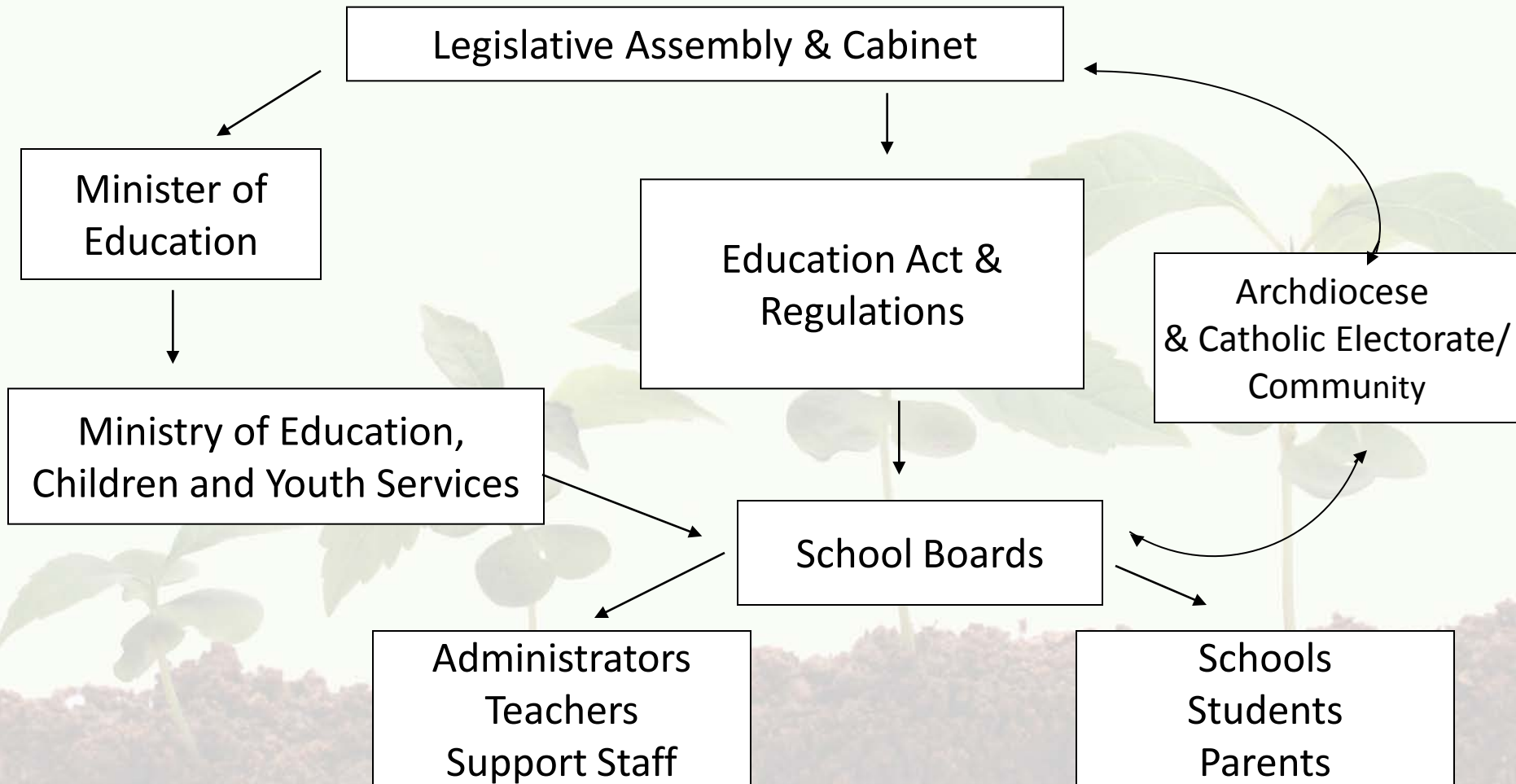
**Partners, Advocates  
and Interest Groups**

- Parish
- Professional associations
- Unions
- Community Groups
- Media

**Ontario Citizens**

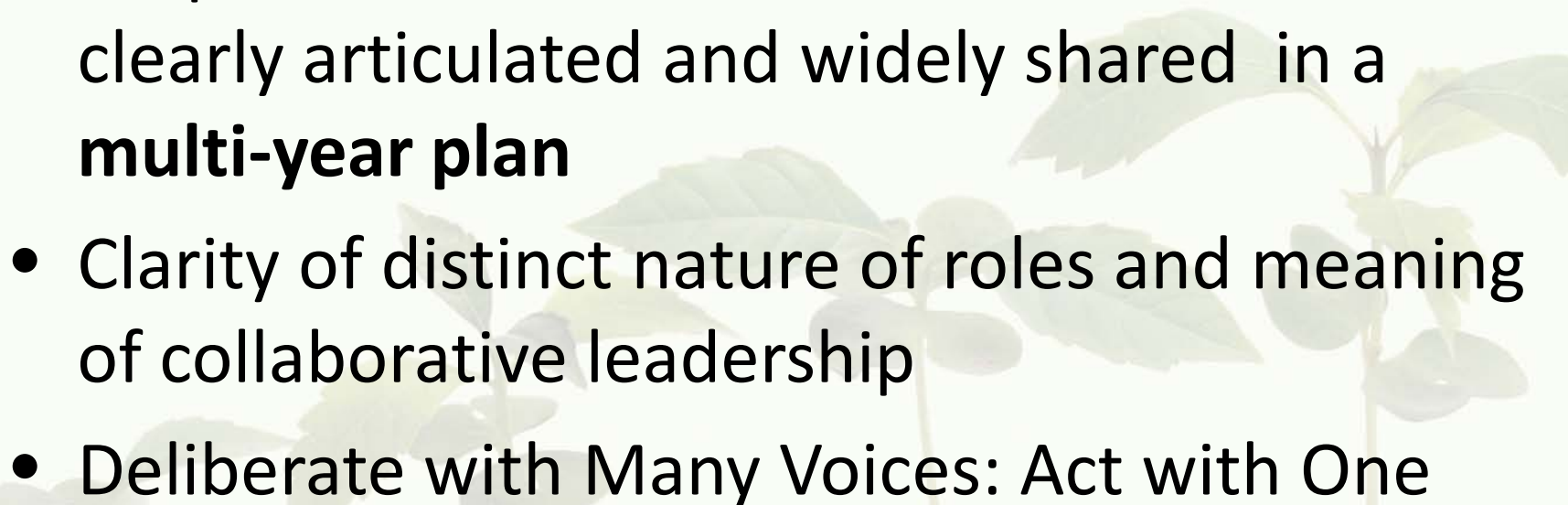
# No School Board is an Island


## Authoritative Linkages



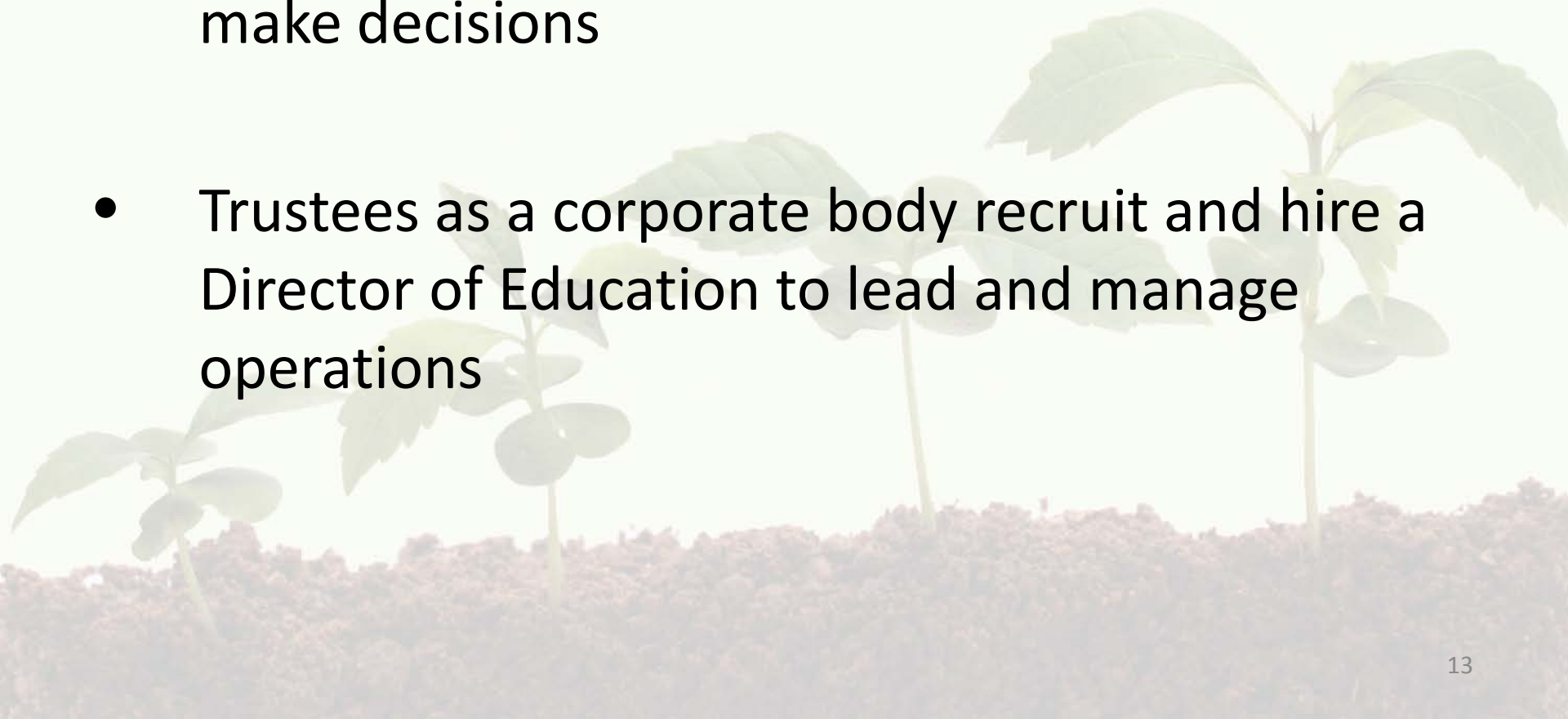



# Good Governance

- Focused on accomplishment of stated purpose
  - Purpose and the means to achieve it are clearly articulated and widely shared in a **multi-year plan**
  - Clarity of distinct nature of roles and meaning of collaborative leadership
  - Deliberate with Many Voices: Act with One
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# Board of Trustees: A Corporate Body

- Trustees have no individual authority; only the elected board as a whole has the authority to make decisions
  - Trustees as a corporate body recruit and hire a Director of Education to lead and manage operations
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# Board of Trustees: A Corporate Body

- Board of trustees work collaboratively with Director to establish multi-year plans and set policy
- Director of education is accountable to the corporate body of the board of trustees
- All staff are accountable to the Director of Education.



# Board of Trustees: Roles

## “Steering not Rowing”

- Governors
  - Advocates
  - Community Leaders
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# System Practices and Procedures

- School & School Board Improvement
  - Fostering a Culture of Professionalism
  - Leadership Development
  - Administrative Structures
  - Parent and Community Supports
  - Succession Planning
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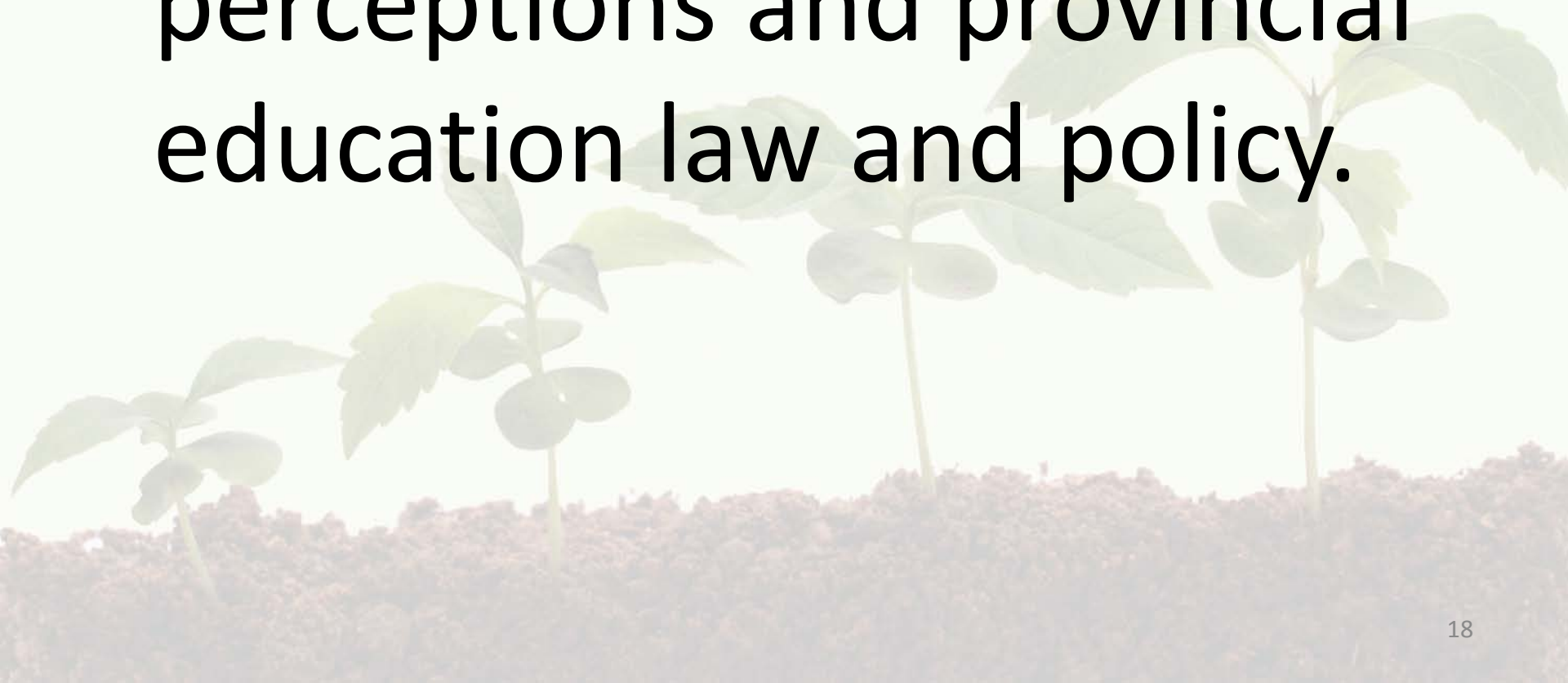
# Board of Trustees as Governors

- Strategic direction
  - Oversight and evaluation of the delivery of quality education programs
  - Stewardship of resources to achieve the annual goals and priorities of the board that are in place to maximize the achievement and well-being of all students
- 



# Board of Trustees as Advocates

Inform and influence public perceptions and provincial education law and policy.





# Board of Trustees: Community Leaders

As community leaders, Trustees engage with the public to build understanding, guidance and active support for publicly funded Catholic education.

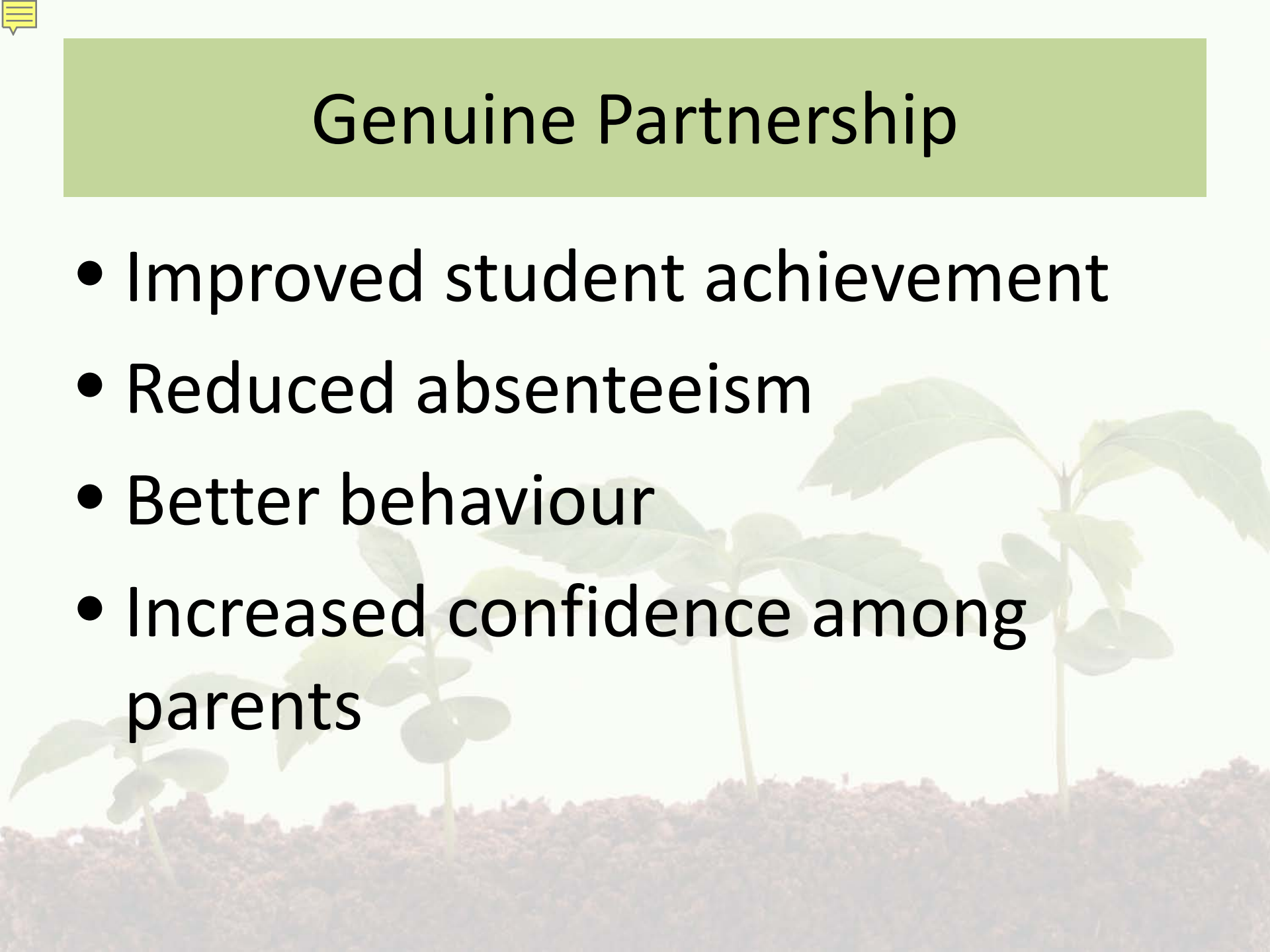


# Code of Conduct

- Catholic faith, Community and Culture
- Integrity and Dignity of Office
- Civil Behaviour
- Complying with Legislation
- Upholding Decisions
- Respect for Confidentiality
- Conflict of Interest and Personal Advantage
- Accepting Gifts and Hospitality
- Additional duties of the Chair

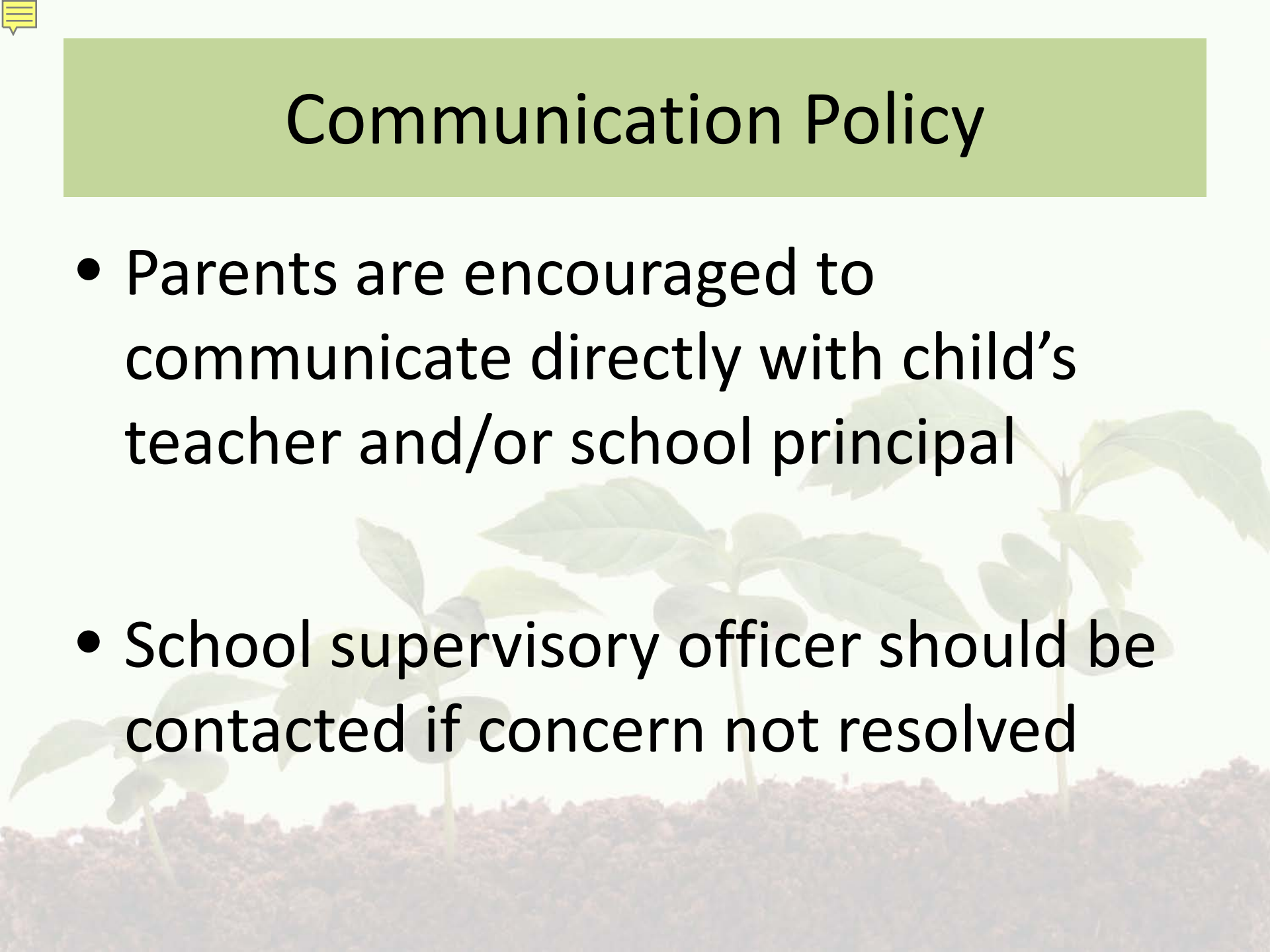


# Genuine Partnership

- Improved student achievement
  - Reduced absenteeism
  - Better behaviour
  - Increased confidence among parents
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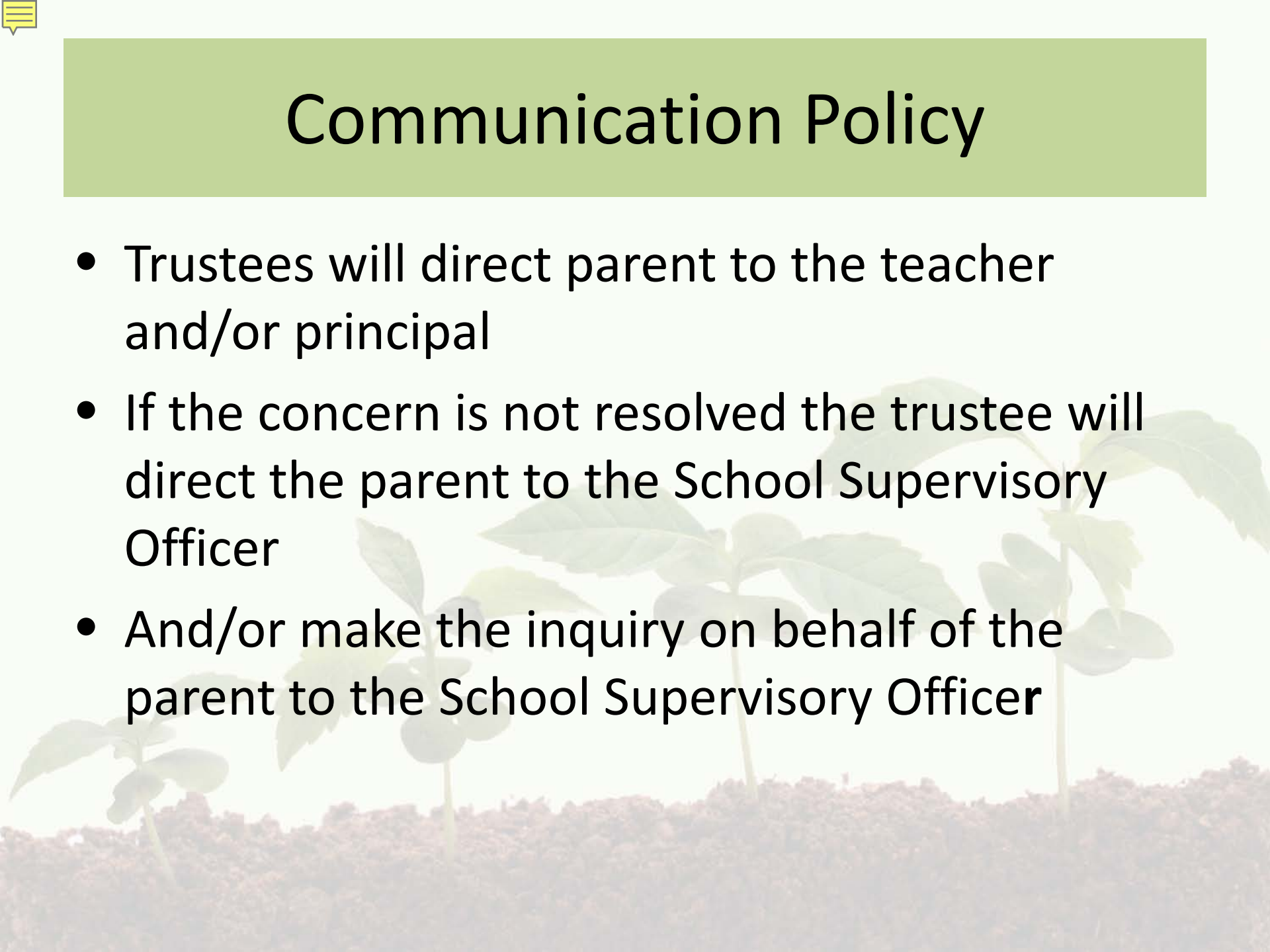


# Communication Policy

- Parents are encouraged to communicate directly with child's teacher and/or school principal
  - School supervisory officer should be contacted if concern not resolved
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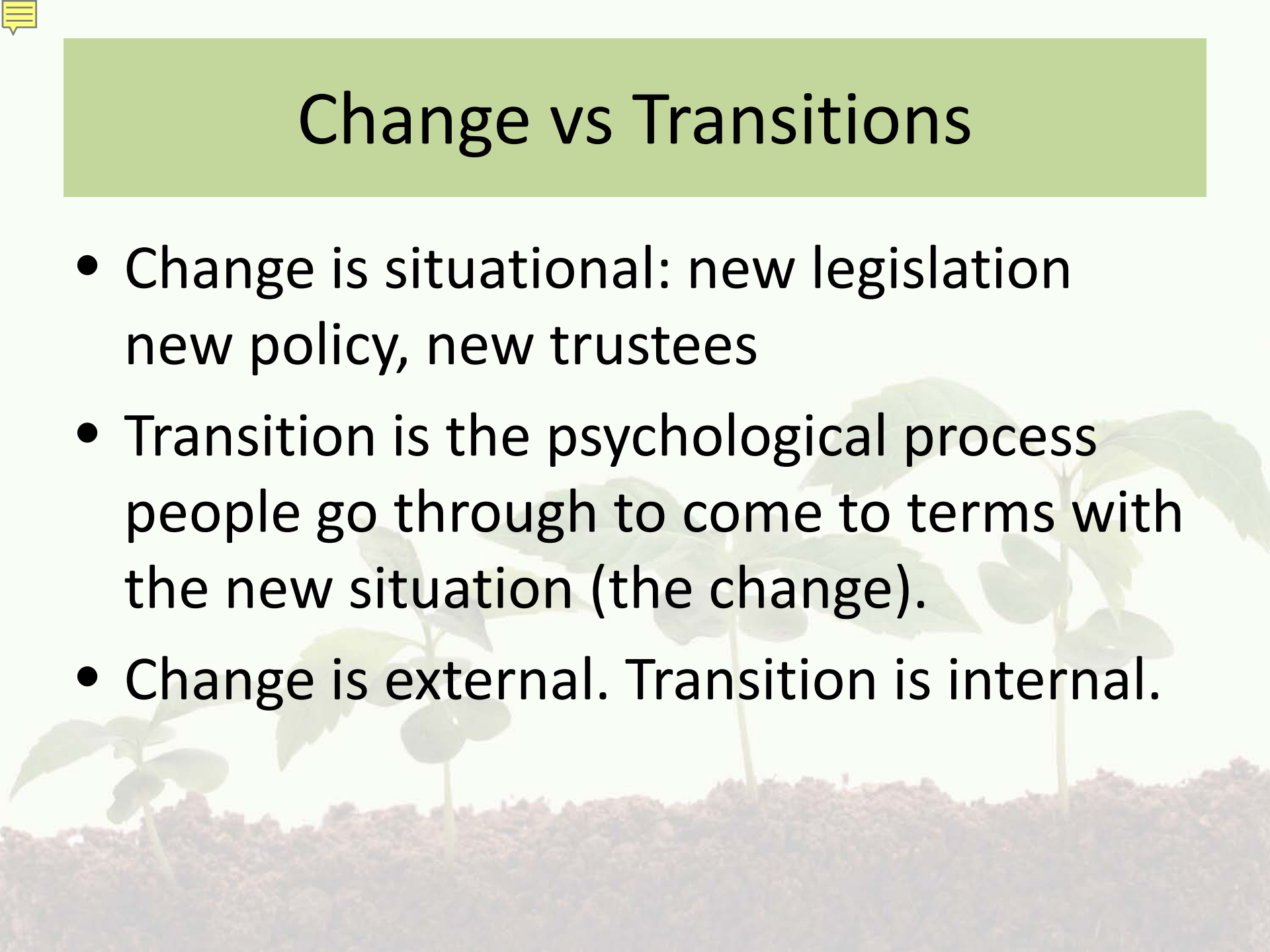


# Communication Policy

- Trustees will direct parent to the teacher and/or principal
  - If the concern is not resolved the trustee will direct the parent to the School Supervisory Officer
  - And/or make the inquiry on behalf of the parent to the School Supervisory Officer
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# Change vs Transitions

- Change is situational: new legislation  
new policy, new trustees
  - Transition is the psychological process  
people go through to come to terms with  
the new situation (the change).
  - Change is external. Transition is internal.
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# Learning Our Way Forward

- An adaptive challenge
  - Learning with heart & mind
  - A shared vision & moral purpose
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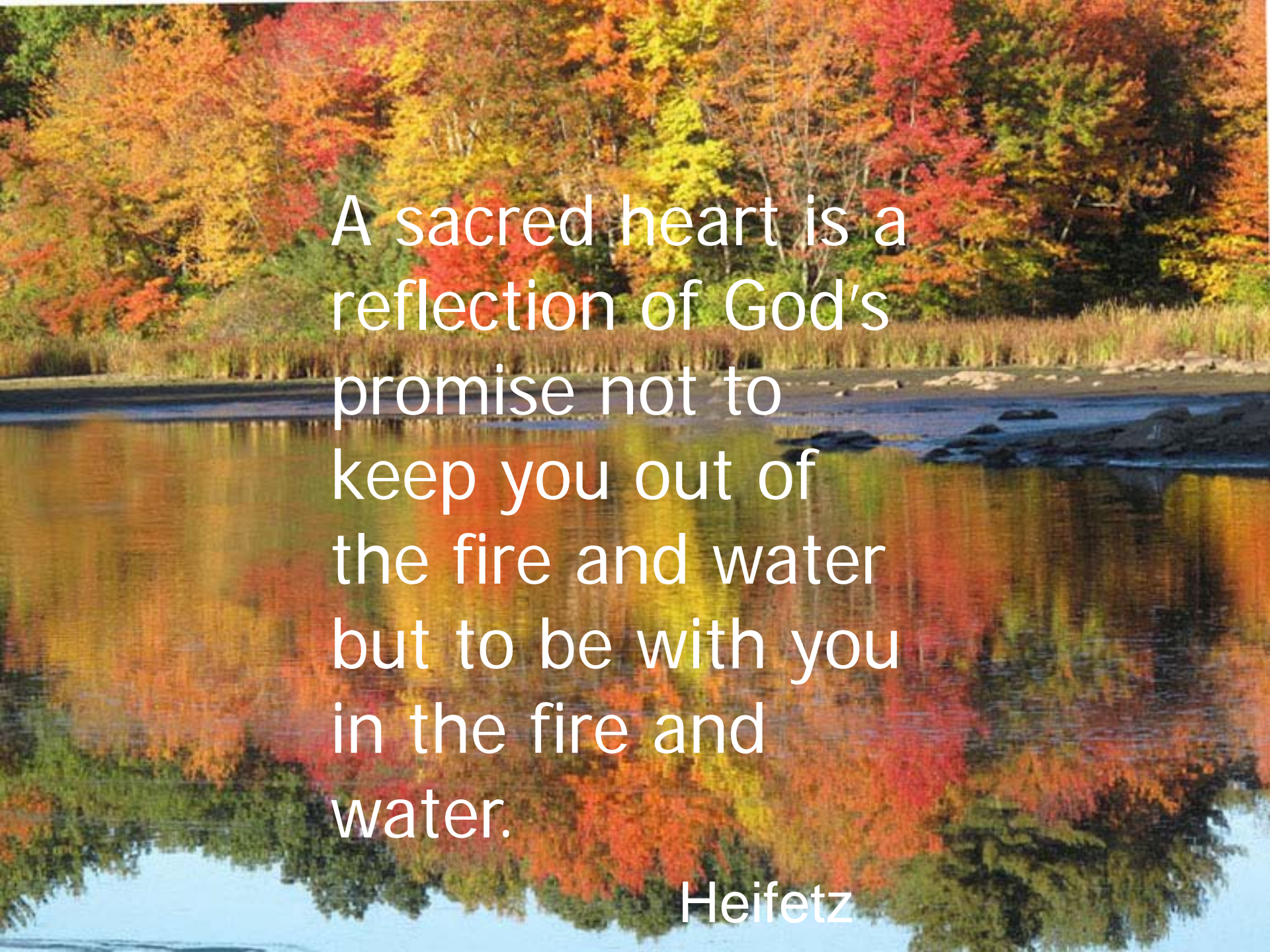
*"Act Justly, Love tenderly and walk humbly with your God". (Micah: 8)*



A sunset scene with silhouettes of trees and a large tree branch in the foreground. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and grey. The text is centered in white.

Learning happens in collaboration.

Sir Ken Robinson.



A sacred heart is a  
reflection of God's  
promise not to  
keep you out of  
the fire and water  
but to be with you  
in the fire and  
water.

Heifetz