

Toronto Catholic District School Board

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2026 - 2027

Safe Schools Plan





At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.











SCHOOL NAME	Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton Catholic S. S.	PRINCIPAL:	Velocci, Laila
SUPERINTENDENT:	George Danfulani		
SCHOOL ADDRESS:	1515 Bloor St W Toronto ON M6P 1A3		
STUDENT ENROLMENT:	627		

OUR MISSION

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.

OUR VISION

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

We believe in the worth and dignity of every person and that people thrive in a safe, healthy and compassionate environment. We strive to foster student achievement and well-being by providing all students with safe, healthy learning environment.

One of the ways we can achieve this goal is by using a whole-school approach to develop and nurture a positive school climate. The Safe Schools Action Team will consist of a variety of stakeholders in each school community responsible for advising the principal about school safety. The team will collaborate with the principal to create the local Safe Schools Plan.

SAFE AND ACCEPTING SCHOOLS TEAM

Administrative Rep	**Bingley, Melissa**	**Administrative Rep**	**Velocci, Laila**
Administrative Rep	**McGarrigle, Robert**	**Teacher Rep**	**Marcelino, Meliza Joy**

SAFE SCHOOLS PLAN

All schools are required to develop and implement school-wide plans to help create a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment. Each Safe Schools Plan will consist of the following components:

1. Bullying Awareness, Intervention and Prevention
2. Progressive Discipline
3. Promoting a Positive School Climate
4. Emergency Response Plan

In order for all students, staff members and parents/visitors in the school facility to be prepared to respond to a serious threat, the response procedures must be practiced. The Toronto Police/School Board Protocol, 2011 requires a minimum of 2 Lockdown Drills every school year.

Please see below for the scheduled drills:

LOCKDOWN DRILLS 2026-2027

1	**2026-09-24**	**2**	**2026-12-01**
3	**2026-12-04**	**4**	**2027-05-13**

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

1. Bullying Awareness, Intervention and Prevention Plan

Providing students with an opportunity to learn and develop in a safe and respectful society is a key goal of the TCDSB. Providing students with an opportunity to learn and develop in a safe and respectful environment supports academic achievement for all students, which in turn, helps them to reach their full potential. Research and experience show that bullying is a serious issue that has far-reaching consequences for individuals, their families and peers and the entire school community. Schools that have bullying intervention and prevention strategies foster a positive learning and teaching environment that supports academic achievement for all students and that helps students reach their full potential. PPM 144

School Vision	Create a safe and inclusive school community where students physical and emotional well-being will be considered of equal importance with academic achievement.
Goal #1	At the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), we believe that schools and families working together can make a difference. By encouraging collective responsibility, our schools can become safe and welcoming communities where students feel secure, valued and free to develop to their full potential. Engage community in a series of initiatives (four)with specific goals of promoting positive mental health,and building healthy relationships and positive use of digital communication.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Building student capacity in identifying unhealthy relationships and appropriate strategies/next steps including reporting to a caring adult.

School Participation in the "ChooseJOY" initiative.

Collaboration between staff to promote a safe and welcoming environment where students feel safe to engage and build healthy relationships.

Student safety presentations and school-wide participation in events.

Nurturing parent engagement, student leadership and CSPC involvement.
Conflict mediation.

Encouraging student participation in Safe and Accepting Schools Teams.

Maintain an active Safe And Accepting Schools Teams.

Engage all members of the BMTM in bullying Awareness and Education, with content and initiatives that are culturally relevant and accommodate the needs of ELL learners in the community.

Welcoming newcomers and helping them feel safe and cared for.

Building student capacity related to knowledge and tools to consider in maintaining good mental health.

Responsibility

- Safe School Action Team
- BMTM Staff (Principal, Vice Principal, Guidance, Student Success, Special Education & classroom teachers, and Support Staff: Student Supervisors, CYWS, EA)
- Toronto Police Service (11 Division)
- Mental Health Worker
- Social Worker
- CSPC
- Student Council
- Chaplaincy

Resources

The following resources will be utilized to support these initiatives/strategies/practices:

- TCDSB Safe Schools Department/Website (https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SafeSchools/Pages/default.aspx)
- Initiatives with Toronto Police Services
- The "ChooseJoy" youth empowerment initiative.
- Public Health Department
- The Canadian Safe Schools Network (https://canadiansafeschools.com)
- Ontario Ministry of Education
- Registry of Resources for Safe and Inclusive Schools (http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teachers/bullyprevention/registry.html)
- Catholic Graduate Expectations
- Catholic Social Teachings
- Gospel Values

Measurement of Progress

The following metrics will be used to measure progress in achieving the Goal:

By June 2026 the school will have implemented a minimum of four (two per semester) initiatives, (presentations, workshops, activities) with a specific goals of promoting positive mental health, building healthy relationships, making good choices and the positive use of digital communication. By June 2026 ninety percent of students will have actively participated in bullying awareness education activities.

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	Create a safe and inclusive school community where students physical and emotional well-being will be considered of equal importance with academic achievement.
Goal #2	Establish baseline data for Progressive Discipline referrals based on actions resulting from interpersonal conflicts, once this baseline data is established for the September and October of 2026, reduce this number by 35% for data obtained in June of 2027.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

A. Increasing School Awareness of bullying:

-Anti-bullying Assembly with guest speaker followed by small group discussions.
-Small group discussions on topics related to online safety and maintaining a positive online footprint.
-Student participation in Bullying Prevention and Awareness TCDSB Safe Schools Student Symposium with follow up at BMTM.
-Mental Health presentation: short & long-term impact of bullying
-Bi-monthly meeting of Safe School Team (with SAC and Homeroom Reps) to address immediate and ongoing concerns in the school and community.
-Student grade assemblies to introduce caring adults* (especially grade 9/10, newcomers)
-announcement on PA, BMTM Daily, Instagram
-increased visibility/presence of Student Supervisors, Administration before school, at lunch and after school in and out of the building.

Responsibility

- Safe School Action Team
- BMTM Staff (Principal, Vice Principal, Guidance, Student Success, Special Education & classroom teachers, and Support Staff: CYWS, EA, Student Supervisor)

- Toronto Police Service (11 Division)
- Mental Health Worker
- Social Worker
- CSPC
- Student Council
- Chaplaincy

Resources The following resources will be utilized to support these initiatives/strategies/practices:

- TCDSB Safe Schools Department/website
- Student Leaders will attend Board-wide Safe Schools Symposium and will share their learning at BMTM
- Initiatives with the Toronto Police Services
- Public Health Department
- The Canadian Safe Schools Network (https://canadiansafeschools.com)
- Ontario Ministry of Education
- Registry of Resources for Safe and Inclusive Schools (http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teachers/bullyprevention/registry.html)

Measurement of Progress The following metrics will be used to measure progress in achieving the Goal:

By June 2022:

To reduce the percentage of students being verbally abused as a result of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and/or gender (biological). Current: 3.8% Race, 2.6% Ethnicity, 2.3% Sexual Orientation, 2.0% Gender Biological

To reduce the incidents of exclusions as a result of race, ethnicity, gender (biological), sexual orientation and religion. Current: 2.3% Race, 2.0% Ethnicity, 1.5% Gender (biological), 1.0% Sexual Orientation, 1.0% Religion

School Vision	Create a safe and inclusive school community where students physical and emotional well-being will be considered of equal importance with academic achievement.
Goal #3	Increase student participation in the Safe and Schools Student Ambassador Anti Bullying team from 1 in September to 15 in December 2027. This team will actively promote anti-bullying initiatives in the school

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

To increase student-reporting of bullying** incidents to a caring adult.
-small-group discussions facilitated by three CYWs, Special Education and Student Success teachers regarding TCDSB-Anonymous Alert App.
-Posters and social media to promote TCDSB Anonymous Alert App
-increased presence of Principal/Vice Principals/Student Supervisors outside the school (entry/lunch/dismissal) and throughout the school day to be proactive and to develop trusting relationships with students.

Responsibility

-Safe School Action Team
- BMTM Staff (Principal, Vice Principal, Guidance, Student Success, Special Education & classroom teachers, and Support Staff: CYWS, EA
- Toronto Police Service (11 Division)
- Mental Health Worker
- Social Worker
- CSPC
- Student Council
- Chaplaincy

Resources The following resources will be utilized to support these initiatives/strategies/practices:

- TCDSB Safe Schools Department/website
- Student Leaders will attend Board-wide Safe Schools Symposium and will share their learning at BMTM
- Initiatives with the Toronto Police Services
- Safe Schools student survey
- Public Health Department
- The Canadian Safe Schools Network (https://canadiansafeschools.com)
- Ontario Ministry of Education
- Registry of Resources for Safe and Inclusive Schools (http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teachers/bullyprevention/registry.html)

Measurement of Progress The following metrics will be used to measure progress in achieving the Goal:

By June 2022:

-Decrease percentage of student responses in the Safe Schools Survey indicating that they "feel of safety" will decrease from 9% to 4%

-Decrease percentage of bullying incidents at BMTM from 25% (combined large/medium problem)to 10%

-Increase percentage of bullying incidents reported to a caring adult (from 45.5% to 60%) or TCDSB Anonymous App. (from 15.9 to 30%)

2. Progressive Discipline Plan

Progressive discipline is a whole-school approach that utilizes a continuum of interventions, supports, and consequences to address inappropriate student behaviour and to build upon strategies that promote positive student behaviours. When inappropriate behaviour occurs, disciplinary measures should be applied within a framework that shifts the focus from one that is solely punitive to one that is both corrective and supportive. Schools should utilize a range of interventions, supports and consequences that include learning opportunities focused on reinforcing positive behaviour and helping students make good choices. PPM 145

School Vision	Promoting Practices to Promote Positive, Safe, Caring, and Inclusive Catholic School Climate. Using progressive discipline and restorative justice practices to create a safe culture of care, mutual respect,inclusivity and responsibility.
Goal #1	To apply proactive progressive discipline and restorative justice strategies to decrease the percentage of suspensions and to create a safe culture of care, mutual respect, inclusivity and responsibility. To engage a large percentage of students in initiatives related to strategies aligned with practices to promote, safe, caring and inclusive Catholic School climate.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Promoting the use of Restorative Conference Mediation Circles.

Communication of the school's Progress Discipline model to students, parents, and staff. Progressive Discipline is applied within a framework that shifts the focus from one that is solely punitive to one that is both corrective and supportive.

Nurturing a supportive culture where students are encouraged to learn from their mistakes, make better choices and engage in positive and productive behaviour

Encouragement of a positive growth mindset, celebrating virtues of the month as well as 'achievement' of the month, school-wide mindful meditations on Mondays.

Active Safe and Accepting Schools Team.

Responsibility

- Safe School Action Team
- BMTM Staff (Principal, Vice Principal, Guidance, Student Success, Special Education & classroom teachers, and Support Staff: CYWS, EAs, Student Supervisors
- Toronto Police Service (11 Division)
- Mental Health Worker
- Social Worker
- CSPC
- Student Council
- Chaplaincy

Resources The following resources will be utilized to support these initiatives/strategies/practices:

- TCDSB Safe Schools Department
- BMTM/TCDSB Code of Conduct
- Public Health Department
- The Canadian Safe Schools Network - https://canadiansafeschools.com
- Ontario Ministry of Education
- Registry of Resources for Safe and Inclusive Schools http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teachers/bullyprevention/registry.html
- Catholic Graduate Expectations
- Catholic Social Teachings
- Gospel Values

Measurement of Progress The following metrics will be used to measure progress in achieving the Goal:

-Analysis of Spring 2025 Student Voice Survey
-Student check-ins from caring adults who have experienced bullying, who have been an aggressor in the past, with an emphasis on relationship building.
-decrease in number of student incidents surrounding inappropriate use of technology

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	Promoting Practices to Promote Positive, Safe, Caring, and Inclusive Catholic School Climate. Using progressive discipline and restorative justice practices to create a safe culture of care, mutual respect,inclusivity and responsibility.
Goal #2	-increase in staff PD and reporting of incidents on the Safe Schools-Progressive Discipline Reporting App -reduce the number of school suspensions (mitigation factors: racialized students, students living in poverty, English Language Learners/new Canadians, students with exceptionalities, mental health) -increase Restorative Justice practices (Classroom, Principal, Vice-Principal, Social Workers, CYW)

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

-Grade Assemblies by Principal/Vice Principal regarding:

TCDSB-School Code of Conduct/BMTM Code of Conduct in the Agenda

Regular focus on Code of Conduct through announcements, contests, and activities.

Staff Professional Development re: learning profile of students with IEPs, English Language Learners (ELL) and new Canadians, students with a refugee background, racialized students and poverty) to mitigate/support effective classroom management strategies.

Chaplaincy Team - Actively spreading awareness about compassion and love and celebrating each other's individuality, as well as how to reach out marginalized communities.

Responsibility

- Safe School Action Team
- BMTM Staff (Principal, Vice Principal, Guidance, Student Success, Special Education & classroom teachers, and Support Staff: CYWS, EA
- Toronto Police Service (11 Division)
- Mental Health Worker
- Social Worker
- CSPC
- Student Council
- Chaplaincy

Resources The following resources will be utilized to support these initiatives/strategies/practices:

- TCDSB Safe Schools Department
- BMTM/TCDSB Code of Conduct
- Public Health Department
- The Canadian Safe Schools Network - https://canadiansafeschools.com
- Ontario Ministry of Education
- Registry of Resources for Safe and Inclusive Schools http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teachers/bullyprevention/registry.html
- Catholic Graduate Expectations
- Catholic Social Teachings
- Gospel Values
- Hacking School Discipline- Restorative Practice Guide

Measurement of Progress The following metrics will be used to measure progress in achieving the Goal:

-Increase in the number of incident reported in the TCDSB-Progressive Discipline Platform
-Reduction in overall suspension rates for 2022-2023
-increase in restorative practices (Mediation Circles)

3. Positive School Climate

A school should be a place that promotes responsibility, respect, civility and academic excellence in a safe learning and teaching environment. A positive school climate exists when all members of the school community feel safe, comfortable and accepted. The Safe Schools Action Team and student leadership groups can play key roles in supporting learning and practices that educate students and staff members about safety concerns. Those practices used for very challenging situations that can jeopardize the safety and well being of others include, but not limited to: Threat Assessment, Restorative Conference and Mediation Circles.

School Vision	Promoting practices that promote a Positive, Safe, Caring, and Inclusive Catholic School Climate. Continue to build on relationships with all stakeholders to ensure a positive and safe Catholic school climate. Promote healthy relationships and positive school climate for students, staff, and parents/guardians. Promote and create a school climate with focus on balanced social and emotional well-being of each member of the community including anti-Black racism and LGBTQS++.
Goal #1	Increasing community engagement in activities and initiatives designed to promote a positive, safe, caring, and inclusive Catholic School Community. Increasing positive relationships and respectful interactions between students and other students as well as students and staff. Promoting equity and inclusion, including efforts to dismantle anti-black racism by having open discussions with staff and students regarding Indigenous Education, anti-Black racism and needed supports for the LGBTQs+ co

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Ongoing staff professional learning related progressive discipline and mitigating and other factors.

Engaging guest speakers who promote healthy relationships and positive school climate for students, staff, and parents/guardians.

Increase school pride and positive image of the school (after-school activities, spirit wear, social media.

Guest speakers for Bullying Awareness, Mental Health, and Anti-Black Racism.

Student Town Halls (various-regarding school climate)

Peer Mediation Program

Community/Talking Circles
Affinity Groups

Multicultural fair to celebrate diversity and inclusion
.
Assemblies and workshops focused on belonging, power of words and mindset

School events, sports and extracurricular activities all contribute to a positive school climate. Parent community is also informed and involved.
63. After school programs help build community and meet the different

CSLIT - active participation of SAC members.

Nurturing teacher professional learning. Fostering positive and safe learning communities is important to support school improvement.

Responsibility

- Safe School Action Team
- BMTM Staff (Principal, Vice Principal, Guidance, Student Success, Special Education & classroom teachers, and Support Staff: CYWS, EA
- Toronto Police Service (11 Division)
- Mental Health Worker
- Social Worker
- CSPC
- Student Council
- Chaplaincy
- Coalition for Change
- SAGE (LGBTQs+)

Resources

The following resources will be utilized to support these initiatives/strategies/practices:

- School, TCDSB and Ministry of Education resources
- Catholic Graduate Expectations
- Catholic Social Teachings
- Gospel Values
- Extra-curricular Activities (Clubs, Sports, Outreach, and Faith through Student Leadership)
- PD - Anti-Black racism - Book Study - So you want to talk about race by Ijeoma Oluo
- Huddle-Up

Measurement of Progress

The following metrics will be used to measure progress in achieving the Goal:

-Increased student engagement and participation in co-curricular events
-Increased staff participation in co-curricular activities and differentiated curricular activities.
-Increased promotion of school's positive school image and increased school spirit through robust online presence on social media.

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	Promote and create a school climate with focus on balanced social and emotional well-being of each member of the community including anti-Black racism and LGBTQs+.
Goal #SVP 1	-To increase respectful interactions between students as well as with staff. -To increase student voice through TOWN HALLS and student participation in co-curricular activities. -To raise the profile of the school to a respectful and empowering community.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

-Students awareness of Anonymous App/caring adults to report inappropriate incidents.
-building a positive image of the school in the community through positive exchanges between students and community members.
-Reducing the number of students in the hallways during class time.
-Increase student leadership and voice through HRT3ML and HRE4ML Leadership classes, Student Council, CSLIT, Coalition for Change (Equity-anti-Black racism, SAGE (LGBTQs+), athletics and clubs.
-Guidance workshops (Mental Health, Positive Body Images, Relationships)
-Positive messages and images of students to be shared daily through social media (twitter, Instagram).

Responsibility

- Safe School Action Team
- BMTM Staff (Principal, Vice Principal, Guidance, Student Success, Special Education & classroom teachers, and Support Staff: CYWS, EA
- Toronto Police Service (11 Division)
- Mental Health Worker
- Social Worker
- CSPC
- Student Council
- Chaplaincy

Resources The following resources will be utilized to support these initiatives/strategies/practices:

- School and TCDSB resources (Safe Schools policies)
- Students
- All school Staff

Measurement of Progress	The following metrics will be used to measure progress in achieving the Goal:

-Increased in the number of students involved/engaged in various co-curricular initiatives.
-increased enrollment resulting from school's raised profile in the community.

4. Emergency Response Plan

The Toronto Catholic District School Board has a primary responsibility to ensure the safety of students and staff inside Board buildings and on Board property. Central policies and procedures, developed in collaboration with the Toronto Police Service, provide direct support to school administrators in the management of crisis situations, including a lockdown response. It is the responsibility of each school to develop local procedures specific to that school, including a process by which all regular staff members, itinerant and specialist teachers and support staff, facility workers and visitors are informed of local considerations in the event of a threat to school safety. MOE Provincial Model for a Local Police/School Board Protocol

School Vision	All students, staff members and visitors will become knowledgeable about emergency procedures for threats to the safety and well-being of all persons at school, and will be able to appropriately respond according to the guidelines established by TCDSB.
Goal #1	To plan, practice and evaluate a minimum of 4 lockdown Drills in this school year.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- Continue to work with our community partners to ensure safe and effective emergency response practices/procedures
- Email and verbal communication with all staff
- Debriefing and reflection on practices
- Updated pink folders in classrooms with class lists, emergency procedures and floor plans

Lockdown Demonstration and Discussion
-Classroom Teachers are asked to have Lockdown Discussion and Demonstration with their classes
-Teachers are asked to do a lockdown drill and discussion with all classes

Responsibility

- Admin, all staff and students
- Toronto Police Service (11 Division)
- Toronto Fire Services

Resources The following resources will be utilized to support these initiatives/strategies/practices:

- Safe Schools Department
- BMTM Safe Schools team
- Emergency Procedure Manual - revisiting throughout the year
- TCDSB-TPS Safe School Protocol

Measurement of Progress	The following metrics will be used to measure progress in achieving the Goal:

- Successful execution of safety drills throughout the school year as measured by a reduction in the number of different issues identified due to ongoing resolutions.
- Review protocols and procedures identified in the Emergency & Crisis Response Plan regularly during staff PLC