


Toronto Catholic District School Board

**Dr. Brendan Browne**

Chief Executive Officer

**Adrian Della Mora**

Chief Education Officer

**Michael A. Caccamo**

Superintendent of Education Safe Schools and Curriculum Leadership & Innovation

**Catholic Education Centre**

80 Sheppard Avenue East
Toronto ON M2N 6E8
www.tcdsb.org







2026 - 2027

# Safe Schools Plan





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











| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| SCHOOL NAME | Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School | PRINCIPAL: | Wetzel, Michael |
| SUPERINTENDENT: | Chen, Derek | | |
| SCHOOL ADDRESS: | 3200 Kennedy Rd Toronto ON M1V 3S8 | | |
| STUDENT ENROLMENT: | 1010 | | |

## 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** | **Wardle, Cherie** | **Support Staff Rep** | **De Silva, Cleonie** |
| **Teacher Rep** | **Anna Sersanti** | **Community Rep** | **Lori Posner** |

### 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** | **2026-03-18** | **2** | **2026-09-30** |
| **3** | **2026-11-30** | **4** | **2026-12-08** |

# 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** | To utilize bullying and discrimination awareness, intervention and prevention strategies that foster a positive learning and teaching environment, that supports academic achievement for all students and that helps students promote inclusion and community. |
| **Goal #1** | Grade 9 Orientation Oasis- September<br>Cyber Awareness Week<br>Resilence Talks<br>Grade 9 assemblies<br>Own your words and Actions - School pride campaign |

**Initiatives/Strategies/Practices**

To continue orientation program for international students and elect international student representatives as an inclusive approach to new comers.
To promote peer mentorship programs, activities, and orientation for Grade 9 students.
To promote inclusion via HeadStart Program for gr. 9 students; Gr.9 Orientation Day, TA Program, and admissions meetings with new incoming students and visa students. Welcoming newcomers and helping them feel safe and cared for.
To raise awareness of effects of bullying on mental health - safe schools week activities; peer leadership training on how to talk about mental health topics/stigma and to present to junior students on the topic and how to report/get help if needed via Anonymous Alert App.
To continue SBAT Fall meetings (review of every student in the school).
To invite police and guest speakers to present on social media safety.
To increase response rate of Safe School Survey by using Teacher Advisor (TA) time or make the survey a part of a unit for Social Studies.
To consider promoting Safe Schools activities and awareness of Safe School Topics via Student Council Instagram account or create Safe Schools Team's own Instagram account.
To use progressive discipline/restorative justice strategies, along with peer mediation to create a bully-free school environment.
To use mindfulness councils to teach student how to be more focused, present and non-judgmental.

**Responsibility**

Principal and Vice Principals
Safe Schools Action Team, CYW, Guidance
Teacher Coordinators of HeadStart Program, Grade 9 Orientation, peer leadership training Teacher Advisors - TA time
Summer School teachers and administration through the transition program
OASIS Assemblies
Mary Ward Town Hall Meetings

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

Progressive Discipline Safe Schools Statistics https://webapp.tcdsb.org/PDSS/logon.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fPDSS%2fDefault.aspx
• Student Surveys: Safe School Survey Fall 2020/My School My Voice 2021; Transition: Your Move to High School Fall 2021, and Student Voice: Learning During the COVID 19 Pandemic Spring 2020 and 2021) https://webapp.tcdsb.org/DIP30
• TCDSB Policy S.S.11 Bullying Prevention & Awareness http://www.tcdsb.org/policyregister/SS11.htm
• TCDSB Safe Schools Bullying Resources http://sharepoint01/SafeSchools/Document%20Library/Forms/AllItems.aspx
• TCDSB Bullying Prevention and Intervention Brochure
• MOE http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/ResourceDocEng.pdf
• PPM 145: Bullying Prevention and Intervention

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

Year-end statistics on number of reported instances of bullying - PD Platform Report and anecdotal evidence from Admin
My School My Voice Survey/Student Voice in addition to SIEP success plan created by students as an indicator of success/ goal achievement for students for the year.
Safe School Survey - comparison of current year school data with previous year reports and with TCDSB data
M & M Classroom Bulletin Boards, extended TA mental health lessons, daily M & M announcements on TA LMS.
Anecdotal evidence from staff, students and parents at various intervals throughout the school year

# TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

## Safe Schools Plan

| | |
|---|---|
| **School Vision** | To utilize bullying and discrimination awareness, intervention and prevention strategies that foster a positive learning and teaching environment, that supports academic achievement for all students and that helps students promote inclusion and community. |
| **Goal #2** | A Student poster campaign acknowledging social behaviors that don't build community. Creative posters examine behaviors to avoid: IE: eating in the washroom, and give the alternative positive behavior that builds community and shows respect.<br>Guest speakers RE: social awareness and how to support each other opposed to judgement - character building. - Human Trafficking Assembly/Speaker. |

**Initiatives/Strategies/Practices**

To communicate via staff meetings and TA sessions, PA announcements, and Jack Chapter at Mary Ward to raise awareness and education on the topic. Various local school groups such as Safe Schools initiatives and school support resources. Educational presentations for the student body on dealing with mental health issues and how to receive help via guest presentations and guest speakers, class activities and WARD activities during TA time. Teacher Advisors to check-in with students on their mental health/wellness as the school works to incorporate mindfulness, anti-racism and mental health activities into TA units.

**Responsibility**

Principal and Vice Principals
Guidance Counsellors
Safe Schools Action Team, CYW, Guidance, Teacher Coordinators of GSA, Best Buddies, Gender Justice Teacher Advisors - TA time
Drama teacher

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

Progressive Discipline Safe Schools Statistics https://webapp.tcdsb.org/PDSS/logon.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fPDSS%2fDefault.aspx
• Student Surveys: Safe School/My School My Voice) https://webapp.tcdsb.org/DIP30
• TCDSB Policy S.S.11 Bullying Prevention & Awareness http://www.tcdsb.org/policyregister/SS11.htm
• TCDSB Safe Schools Bullying Resources http://sharepoint01/SafeSchools/Document%20Library/Forms/AllItems.aspx
• TCDSB Bullying Prevention and Intervention Brochure
• MOE http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/ResourceDocEng.pdf
• PPM 145: Bullying Prevention and Intervention
Mental Health resources for Teacher Advisors from Toronto Public Health on topics such as "Signs to Look For" and "Stress vs. Depression vs. Anxiety

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

Year end statistics on number of reported instances of bullying.
My School My Voice Survey
Safe School Survey

# TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

## Safe Schools Plan

| | |
|---|---|
| **School Vision** | To utilize bullying and discrimination awareness, intervention and prevention strategies that foster a positive learning and teaching environment, that supports academic achievement for all students and that helps students promote inclusion and community. |
| **Goal #3** | A Student poster campaign acknowledging social behaviors that don't build community. Creative posters examine behaviors to avoid: IE: eating in the washroom, and give the alternative positive behavior that builds community and shows respect.<br>Guest speakers RE: social awareness and how to support each other opposed to judgement - character building. - Human Trafficking Assembly/Speaker.<br>Daily messages that remind students to Own their Actions and words - Listen to other peoples stories and tell u |

**Initiatives/Strategies/Practices**

To promote the ideals of "Be an Upstander Not a Bystander" by encouraging students to safely intervene and report bullying behaviours: Class presentations from school resource officer; Safe Schools Team - Safe Schools Week; WARD unit activities and ongoing class activities. To continue consistent follow-up plan for incidents of bullying and harassment.

**Responsibility**

Principal and Vice Principals
Guidance Counsellors
Safe Schools Action Team, CYW, Public Health Nurse Teacher Coordinators of GSA, Best Buddies, Gender Justice Teacher Advisors - TA time
Students
OASIS

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

Progressive Discipline Safe Schools Statistics https://webapp.tcdsb.org/PDSS/logon.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fPDSS%2fDefault.aspx • Student Surveys: Safe School/My School My Voice https://webapp.tcdsb.org/DIP30
• TCDSB Policy S.S.11 Bullying Prevention & Awareness http://www.tcdsb.org/policyregister/SS11.htm
• TCDSB Safe Schools Bullying Resources http://sharepoint01/SafeSchools/Document%20Library/Forms/AllItems.aspx
• TCDSB Bullying Prevention and Intervention Brochure
• MOE http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/ResourceDocEng.pdf
• PPM 145: Bullying Prevention and Intervention
M& M Weekly Initiative and Class Activities (Mindfulness Moment)

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

Year end statistics on number of reported instances of bullying.
My School My Voice Survey
Safe School Survey

## 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** | To utilize a whole school approach towards progressive discipline that is both corrective and supportive, and includes a range of interventions, supports and consequences that provide learning opportunities focused on reinforcing positive behaviour and helping students make good choices. |
| **Goal #1** | To continue to establish a variety of school-wide prevention measures and initiatives in regards to progressive discipline and appropriate consequences. |

**Initiatives/Strategies/Practices**

To provide clear and on-going communication of the school code of conduct to all school community stakeholders through regular communication and school online platforms, and reminders from teacher advisors. Also, to help promote awareness through Guest speaker opportunities and proper modeling. To ensure full implementation of student IEP recommendations.

To provide staff with professional development opportunities regarding the Progressive Discipline electronic platform with a focus on the reporting of incidents of misbehavior to school administration.
To implement progressive discipline measures such as warnings, reflection papers, detention, in-school suspension, and suspensions when necessary, family-wholistic approach, community services, building community approach.
Enforcing no movement time periods.
Get teachers trained in mindfulness techniques to help with de-escalation.
Announcements celebrating virtues of the month, regular school masses, and student-led prayers.
Recognizing positive modelling rather than punitive measures.
Celebrate community successes.

**Responsibility**

Safe and Accepting School Team, CYW Principal, Vice Principals
Supervisors of Students
Chaplaincy
Support Staff
Teacher Advisors
Classroom Teachers
Student Services - Guidance
SBAT Group
Students
Grade 9 Orientation Program
OASIS
Student Voice through Town Hall Meetings

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

School Agenda Book i.e. Code of Conduct
Restorative Justice Procedures
School Clubs / Events
Progressive Discipline Platform
TCDSB Safe Schools Department and Website
School Social Worker and Psychologist

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

End of year comparative statistics for instances of disciplinary action taken.
My School My Voice Survey/Student Voice: Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic results and comparison to previous years and TCDSB survey results
Safe School Survey
Anecdotal feedback from staff, students and parents regarding school climate

## 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** | To achieve a positive school climate wherein all members of the school community feel safe, comfortable and accepted; wherein all students and staff members promote responsibility, respect, civility and academic excellence.<br>Also, to cultivate a climate where students know that their voices are heard and see evidence that things can change based on their input. |
| **Goal #1** | To continue to foster individual and collective acts of service that actualize Gospel values, increase awareness of diversity, equity and inclusivity.<br>Celebratory community building events and acknowledgements. |

**Initiatives/Strategies/Practices**

To promote inclusivity: Equity Plus Inclusivity Committee (EPIC) initiatives such as Professional Learning for staff, students and staff engagement in promoting inclusivity via curriculum, learning activities, and extra-curricular, and noted as a focus area as part of the school learning improvement plan; CYW to invite outside agencies and outside guest speakers such as East Metro Services for once-a-month What's Up, Let's Talk" session/workshop; promote interactions of all students in interacting with and building relationships with students with special needs especially during lunch time. To promote engagement of students and families in various acts of service: food drives; in-class religion retreats, Advent projects and the recognition of good deeds through P.A. announcements and/or via the electronic PA display system. Implement and maintain an on-going orientation program for VISA students who are new to the country (August - prior to the start of the school year). Continue to reach out and encourage students to seek the assistance of the ESL teacher/ guidance resources/ and School Board ESL workshops and resources.
Continue to use several designated single-user, staff washrooms which are now gender neutral washrooms.
Use of TA interviews: Asking that each TA join at least 1 extracurricular, club, or sport in the school for the year, as well as mental health check-ins.
Encourage various cultural clubs within the school.
Recognize the various cultural month themes during morning announcements.
Simple acts of kindness announcements--calling students at the end of the week to receive a treat.

**Responsibility**

Safe Schools Action Team
Principal, Vice-Principals
Teacher Coordinators of Clubs, Sport Teams Chaplaincy
Health Action Team
The Student Nutrition Program
Teacher Advisor
Classroom Teachers
Supervisor of Students
Chaplaincy
Student Services and Student Success

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

Safe Schools Action Team
Teacher Coordinators of Clubs, Sport Teams ,Chaplaincy
M& M Weekly Initiative and Class Activities (Mindfulness Moment)
TCDSB Equity Department
Local Equity Team
Administration
TCDSB Mental Health Experts

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

My School My Voice/Student Voice
Safe Schools Survey
Transition: Your Move to High School Survey
Enrollment of students in clubs - involvement and active participation
Anecdotal feedback from staff, students and parents regarding school climate and morale

# TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

## Safe Schools Plan

| | |
|---|---|
| **School Vision** | To achieve a positive school climate wherein all members of the school community feel safe, comfortable and accepted; wherein all students and staff members promote responsibility, respect, civility and academic excellence.<br>Also, to cultivate a climate where students know that their voices are heard and see evidence that things can change based on their input. |
| **Goal #2** | To continue to inform students on the safe use of social media.<br>Continued implementation of the Words from Ward. Own your words - school pride. |

**Initiatives/Strategies/Practices**

- Continue to inform students about issues related to bullying/ discrimination.
- Provide resources to students around improved Mental Health - how to maintain good mental health/ coping with social isolation.
- Social interaction using technology to maintain positive communication.
- Student Survey-Own your words from Ward where student issues and topics will be discussed and explored. This will be a positive example of social media being used for something productive.
- Creation of the mental health club and reach out resources - Resilence Talks.

**Responsibility**

Safe Schools Action Team
Principal, Vice-Principals
Teacher Coordinators of Clubs/ Sport Teams
Chaplaincy
Guidance
Mary Lynne Arturi (podcast moderator)

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

Safe Schools Action Team
Teacher Advisors
Guidance
School Social Worker
School Psychologist
Chaplaincy
There will be some resources needed to run and maintain the podcast

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

My School My Voice Survey
Safe Schools Survey
Enrollment of students in clubs - involvement and active participation

# TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

## Safe Schools Plan

| | |
|---|---|
| **School Vision** | To achieve a positive school climate wherein all members of the school community feel safe, comfortable and accepted; wherein all students and staff members promote responsibility, respect, civility and academic excellence.<br>Also, to cultivate a climate where students know that their voices are heard and see evidence that things can change based on their input. |
| **Goal #SVP 1** | To continue to inform students on the safe use of electronic devices and social media. |

**Initiatives/Strategies/Practices**

- Continue to inform students about issues related to bullying
- Provide resources to students around improved Mental Health - how to maintain good mental health/ coping with social isolation.
- Social interaction using technology to maintain positive communication (podcast).

**Responsibility**

Safe Schools Action Team
Principal, Vice -Principals
Teacher Coordinators of Clubs, Sport Teams
Chaplaincy
Guidance
School Resource Officer

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

Safe Schools Action Team
Chaplaincy
Teacher Advisors

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

My School My Voice Survey
Safe Schools Survey
Enrollment of students in online forums - involvement and active participation in class, online extra-curriculars
Class participation in weekly M & M initiatives.

## 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; one drill per semester. |

**Initiatives/Strategies/Practices**

To schedule, practice and evaluate a minimum of 4 Emergency Response Drills in this school year as well as 4 fire-drills. All drills will be run at different times of the school day with one scheduled during the end of period class change.
Staff and students will be familiarized with the emergency procedures for threats to safety through regular staff meetings, PA Days, and the weekly staff memo.
Students will be informed and trained through their regular classrooms and their TA.
-School to practice a lockdown drill during TA time and a fire drill during an unsupervised time such as lunchtime.

**Responsibility**

- Principal and Vice Principal
- School Staff
- Students
- School Resource Officer

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

- "School Safety - Response Procedures for Staff" Document
- Police Consultation
- Consulation with Fire Department

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

- Fewer students in the hall during a lockdown
- Quicker timed responses to the lockdown