

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	St. Bernard Catholic School	PRINCIPAL:	Tonks, Matthew
SUPERINTENDENT:	Robert D'Addario		
SCHOOL ADDRESS:	12 Duckworth St Toronto ON M6M 4W4		
STUDENT ENROLMENT:	578		

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	**Tonks, Matthew**	**Support Staff Rep**	**Harling, Trina**
Administrative Rep	**Villa, Maxim Derney Calister**	**Parent Rep**	**Shanahan, Angela**
Teacher Rep	**Chiesa, Chantal**	**Student Rep**	**Ortins, Mila**
Teacher Rep	**DeLeo, Theresa**		

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	**2026-01-14**	**2**	**2026-04-01**
3	**2026-09-11**	**4**	**2026-09-16**

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	The 2024-2027 Pastoral Plan for the Toronto Catholic District School Board provides themes of focus for enriching learning, faith experiences and ministry, and helping to nurture the relationships between our families, our parishes, our staff and our students, and all of us who share a strong commitment to Catholic education. The focus for Year 3 "Growing In Knowledge with Justice and Hope." We are called to nurture communities with love, openness, and support, being mindful of poverty, inequali
Goal #1	By June 2027, our school community will see a measurable decrease in bullying behaviours, and place a greater emphasis on positive conflict resolution and restorative practices continue developing a welcoming and inclusive climate for every member of our community.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- Peace Making awareness throughout the year with an emphasis during the month of November
- Classroom and school wide initiatives to promote Peace Making daily especially during Bullying Awareness and Prevention month
- Virtue of the Month Award certificates to celebrate and recognize students.
- Sharing of Board and Ministry resources with staff - include Safe School Section with links/resources - in the Weekly Bulletin
- Celebrating pro-social behaviours using age-appropriate language during morning announcements
- Identifying supports in the community to present to the student body and families, specific to the topic of bullying
- All classes to incorporate the issue of bullying, and perspective-taking across the curriculum and throughout their Pedagogy
- Use of alternative methods of consequences to illustrate appropriate behaviours (behaviour contracts, restorative practices, reflection)
- Presentation by TPS to help with conflict resolution, social media, and restorative practices

Responsibility

- Administration
- Staff
- Parents
- Student Leadership Team
- Parents
- Toronto Police Service
- CYW
- Guidance Counsellor

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

- TCDSB Pastoral Plan
- Classroom/school resources/CYW resources
- Safe Schools Department
- TCDSB Website on Bullying Prevention and Awareness
- Community Agencies for Mental Health and Wellness
- Religious Education and Family Life Programs
- Health Curriculum Resources
- Safe and Caring School Climate Survey
- Board Mental Health and Wellness Personnel (e.g.: Guidance Counsellor, Social Worker, School Psychologist)
- School Code of Conduct-Student Handbook

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

- Student voice
- Review metrics from School Climate Survey - May 2026 - Grade 6 & 8 students
- Kinder words being shared among students
- Decreased number of negative incidents observed by the teachers and staff- 87% of students feel safe within classroom; over 75% have a caring adult to connect to (2025), will look to Student Voice Survey to measure progress
- Implementation of restorative practices - guidance teacher, CYW, whole school approach
- Decreased number of interventions from Administration

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	The 2024-2027 Pastoral Plan for the Toronto Catholic District School Board provides themes of focus for enriching learning, faith experiences and ministry, and helping to nurture the relationships between our families, our parishes, our staff and our students, and all of us who share a strong commitment to Catholic education. The focus for Year 3 "Growing In Knowledge with Justice and Hope." We are called to nurture communities with love, openness, and support, being mindful of poverty, inequali
Goal #2	By June 2027, students in the junior and intermediate divisions will participate in activities that focus on mental health and wellbeing that support respectful interactions.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- Guest speakers and presentations - TPS, Peace by Peace etc.
- To incorporate school vision during announcements school announcements.
- Meditation in the classroom after lunch break
- Social networking and online safety - TPS presentation

Responsibility

- Teachers
- Educational Assistants
- CYW
- DECE
- Vice Principal
- Principal
- Students
- Social worker
- Guidance counsellor

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

- WITS program
- Classroom and school developed resources
- School Student Handbook
- Religious Education and Family Life Programs
- Affirmations over the PA

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

- Pro-social behaviours by students as observed by school staff and reflected in Progressive Discipline platform
- Reduction in school yard incidents
- Measures from the Safe and Caring Catholic School Climate Survey

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	The 2024-2027 Pastoral Plan for the Toronto Catholic District School Board provides themes of focus for enriching learning, faith experiences and ministry, and helping to nurture the relationships between our families, our parishes, our staff and our students, and all of us who share a strong commitment to Catholic education. The focus for Year 3 "Growing In Knowledge with Justice and Hope." We are called to nurture communities with love, openness, and support, being mindful of poverty, inequali
Goal #3	By June 2027, we will initiate programs that foster mentorship and positive relationships between our intermediate and primary division students.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- Increased and strategic supervision during the school day and at the bell at entry and exit
- Classroom interventions delivered by the school guidance counsellor & school based CYW
- Continued and consistent message from Administration for staff to be vigilant during recess and to incorporate strategies and tactics to reduce/eliminate issues bleeding into the classroom
- Act immediately when issues arise and look to increase preventative measures - sign out for washroom, limiting students movement in hallway during unsupervised times, presence of Administration and CYW as a positive supporting staff member through the school and also to act as a deterrent to unwanted behaviours
- Greater interaction through PEP Talk, PALS, recess buddies, reading buddies between older and younger students to foster great sense of community
- Student leaders to work with younger students during inclement weather through the use of "Chill Bins" to keep students engaged and develop a strong community relationship between all divisions

Responsibility

- All staff
- Students
- TPH
- Guidance counsellor
- Support Staff
- Administration
- CSPC

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

- TPH
- TCDSB Mental Health and Wellness - Special Services
- Student monitors/leaders
- Promoting a Positive School Climate: A Resource for Schools (MOE)
- Use of Into Kids Health resources to support initiatives

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

- Decreased reports of bullying and fewer accidents
- Evidence of Acts of Kindness among school community
- Increased positive interactions and role modeling of older students to younger students

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	The 2024-2027 Pastoral Plan for the Toronto Catholic District School Board provides themes of focus for enriching learning, faith experiences and ministry, and helping to nurture the relationships between our families, our parishes, our staff and our students, and all of us who share a strong commitment to Catholic education. The focus for Year 3 "Growing In Knowledge with Justice and Hope." We are called to nurture communities with love, openness, and support, being mindful of poverty, inequali
Goal #1	By June 2027, we will demonstrate a measurable improvement in inappropriate behaviour and an increase in behaviours that promote kindness, peace, collaboration, and compassion.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- Staggered recesses to increase space and reduce crowding which creates increased conflict(lunch)
- Establish and review with staff a range of responses (e.g., consequences, supports)to student behavior which are in line with the principles of the Board's progressive discipline model
- All staff to be encouraged to assume collective ownership for all students in the school
- Encourage staff to attend Progressive Discipline workshops offered by Safe Schools Department
- Provide training as necessary and promote the use of the Safe Schools Progressive Discipline Platform - MY CORTY
- Positive reinforcement for students involved in pro-social behavior, goal setting, incentives and behaviour contracts
- Varied strategies to be used when dealing with discipline issues (e.g., guidance, social work, behavior contracts, goal setting)
- Communication from Administration when responding to Progressive Discipline
- Use of alternative methods of consequences to illustrate appropriate behaviours (behaviour contracts, restorative practices, reflection)
- Sharing of Board and Ministry resources with staff - include Safes School Section with links/resources - in the Weekly Bulletin
- Proactive interaction prior to issues arising being mindful of students when moving throughout the school and addressing issues before they become a concern

Responsibility

- Administration
- Staff
- CYW
- Guidance Counsellor
- Safe Schools Department

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

- Code of Conduct
- Progressive Discipline Model
- School and Safe Schools Department Portal/resources
- School weekly newsletters
- Student and Staff Handbook
- General information package for parents and staff
- Education Act (i.e. Bill 113, Bill 168, and Bill 157)
- Curriculum materials (e.g. Religious Education, Family Life, Pathways)
- Communication through weekly staff Bulletin of updates and new initiatives
- Encouraging teachers to attend workshops through Safe Schools Department

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

- Better use by staff of incident log and reporting form on Progressive Discipline platform
- Increase Awareness of how staff will respond to student behavior based on collaboration
- Increase in student awareness of possible consequences for actions
- Decrease the number of incident logs and incident reports
- Safe and Caring Catholic School Climate Survey Results

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	The 2024-2027 Pastoral Plan for the Toronto Catholic District School Board provides themes of focus for enriching learning, faith experiences and ministry, and helping to nurture the relationships between our families, our parishes, our staff and our students, and all of us who share a strong commitment to Catholic education. The focus for Year 3 "Growing In Knowledge with Justice and Hope." We are called to nurture communities with love, openness, and support, being mindful of poverty, inequali
Goal #1	By June 2027, there will be an increase in community and school partnerships. Students will engage in and be recognized for positive and respectful interactions and activities.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- The Pastoral Plan Year - The focus for Year is Growing in Justice and Hope. We are called to nurture communities with love, openness, and support, being mindful of poverty, inequality, discrimination, and the protection of everyone’s human rights.
- Food drives and other activities that support marginalized communities
- Positive school spirit through student organized events
- Host Parent/Family events at the school (curriculum night, Gingerbread evening, etc)
- Better use of community liaisons (psychology services, TCDSB, Toronto Public Health)
- Community and school partnerships
- Pep Talk with grade 7s
- PALS program
- Spirit days - Liturgical season Masses
- Extra curricular sports teams
- Equity Team goals seamed in with school climate goals
- Virtues of the month celebration over PA
- Use of alternative methods of consequences to illustrate appropriate behaviours (behaviour contracts, restorative practices, reflection)
- Positive affirmations communicated to school via PA during morning announcements
- Student leaders to engage with younger students to foster stronger sense of community through reading buddies, chill bins and opportunities to work together

Responsibility

- Administration
- Staff
- Parents
- Student Council
- CSPC
- CYW
- Guidance Counsellor

Resources

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

- Religion and Family Life Curriculum Expectations
- CSPC
- Public Health
- School and Community resources
- Toronto Police Service
- Promoting A Positive School Climate - MOE
- Guidance Counsellor
- Into Kids Health Grant

Measurement of Progress

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

- School Safe and Caring Climate Survey results
- Reduction of Code of Conduct infractions
- Increase of visibility of community partners
- Reaching and surpassing goals for drives such as Food Drives and charitable events

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	The 2024-2027 Pastoral Plan for the Toronto Catholic District School Board provides themes of focus for enriching learning, faith experiences and ministry, and helping to nurture the relationships between our families, our parishes, our staff and our students, and all of us who share a strong commitment to Catholic education. The focus for Year 3 "Growing In Knowledge with Justice and Hope." We are called to nurture communities with love, openness, and support, being mindful of poverty, inequali
Goal #2	To address the mental health and well being of our students to assist them to reach the full potential.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- Meditation in the classroom
- Use of CYW, Guidance Counsellor and Social Work
- Safe Schools department resources
- Resources linked in Weekly Newsletter
- Use of Guidance Counsellor Monthly newsletter
- Toronto Public Health
- Use of alternative methods of consequences to illustrate appropriate behaviours (behaviour contracts, restorative practices, reflection)
- Sharing of Board and Ministry resources with staff - include Safes School Section with links/resources - in the Weekly Bulletin

Responsibility

- Teacher
- Admin
- Students
- Social Worker
- CYW
- Guidance Counsellor
- Board Safe Schools Team

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

- Guidance Counsellor
- School Mental Health Ontario
- Toronto Public Health
- The "Joy" Project
- Anchor charts

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

- School Climate
- Reduction of code of conduct infractions
- Increase in feedback from all stakeholders
- Reduction of students sent to administration

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	The 2024-2027 Pastoral Plan for the Toronto Catholic District School Board provides themes of focus for enriching learning, faith experiences and ministry, and helping to nurture the relationships between our families, our parishes, our staff and our students, and all of us who share a strong commitment to Catholic education. The focus for Year 3 "Growing In Knowledge with Justice and Hope." We are called to nurture communities with love, openness, and support, being mindful of poverty, inequali
Goal #SVP 1	Student engagement is contingent to a large degree upon student mental health and wellbeing. Student mental health is inextricably tied to student engagement and achievement. Mental health is critical in the promotion of student success and wellbeing. The greater St. Bernard's community will endeavour to address this fundamental area in an effort to assist our students reach their fullest potential.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Student leaders will initiate projects where students will be involved in showcasing or promoting our Faith, the Arts and physical activity in order to promote a healthy mind, body and spirit in particular during Catholic Education Week and continuing on into Student Mental Health Week.

Responsibility

- Administration
- Teachers
- Students

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

TCDSB Mental Health Strategy
Mental Health monthly staff newsletters

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

Measurement of Progress
- School Climate Survey
- General feel of school is welcoming, caring and positive
- Reduction of Code of Conduct infractions
- Increase in positive feedback from all stakeholders
- Increase of visibility of community partners

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

- Staff meeting to clarify emergency response procedures
- Staff will be equipped with posters specifying the different protocols in a lockdown
- Fire Drills will be performed at least 3 times each per term
- Lockdown drills at least 2 times each per term
- Emergency Folder for each classroom and class grouping area with emergency procedures and other safety items.
- Administrators to provide feedback after each practice
- Practice drills with before and after school care staff

Responsibility

- Administrators, staff and students

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

- Communications to parents regarding emergency response procedures
- Toronto Police Service
- Toronto Fire Service
- School Emergency Response Plan
- Threats to School Safety Response Procedures

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

- Administrative checks during practices reveal procedures are appropriately followed
- Staff feedback