

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	St. Denis Catholic School	PRINCIPAL:	Pauk, Anthony
SUPERINTENDENT:	Flora Cifelli		
SCHOOL ADDRESS:	67 Balsam Ave Toronto ON M4E 3B8		
STUDENT ENROLMENT:	271		

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	**Pauk, Anthony**	**Teacher Rep**	**Crozier-Pacey, Orla**
Teacher Rep	**Blomeley, Jillian**	**Teacher Rep**	**Sala, Alison**

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	**2026-02-17**	**2**	**2026-04-16**
3	**2026-10-28**	**4**	**2026-12-09**

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	St. Denis Catholic School is dedicated to nurturing all students academically, physically, spiritually, emotionally and socially through our faith based curriculum in a safe and welcoming Catholic environment.
Goal #1	By June 2027, St. Denis Catholic School will establish a Bullying Awareness and Education Program, including staff training and a peer-led ambassadors group, to promote a safe and supportive school environment, with progress measured through regular evaluations.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- Student Bullying Awareness & Prevention Presentations to promote inclusiveness among the students
- Grade 8 Bully Awareness educating younger students on the effects of bullying
- To use classroom meetings as a strategy to learn and practice safe methods of intervening bullying situations
- To increase student awareness of bullying behaviour and its effect on peers through targeted lessons at each division and grade level
- P.A.L.S- Playground Activity Leaders in Schools to assist in promoting positive social interactions and inclusiveness (winter & spring)
- Students sign an agreement regarding technology use and pledge not to bully.
- Participation in Pink Shirt Day, Epilepsy society, Autism Awareness, Kindness Program, Mental Health (Stop the Stigma), Rowen/Sabrina/Ryan's Law presentations.
- Anti-bullying assemblies for Virtues of the Month which explain to students how bullying can take different forms
- Anonymous reporting of bullying available online
- Team days and activities encourage community togetherness
- Digital Citizenship training which raises awareness about cyberbullying
- Adoption of Choose Kind as our anti-bullying mantra based on the book WONDER by R. J. Palacio. School shed mural to be painted with this to enhance visual communication of the subject.
- Adoption of Zones of Regulation as our whole school Social Skills program.

Responsibility

- Principal
- Teachers
- Support Staff
- Students
- Parish Priest
- Parents/Guardians
- Guidance Teacher

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

- Online resources
- Board Wide resources
- Bullying Awareness and Prevention Resources (TCDSB)
- Safe and Caring School Survey
- Year of Parish Resources
- Zones of Regulation Program

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

- Positive relationship with the Parish and the community
- School prayers. Liturgies and presentations reflect inclusion, respect and appreciation
- Prayer tables have a place of prominence in the school and classrooms
- Students live the Virtues on a daily basis.
- School community more actively involved in prayer
- Increased student and community awareness of issues such as poverty, hunger and the refugee crisis
- Collection of food items and clothing
- Compare results from the SCCS Surveys with a focus on the questions related to bullying.

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	St. Denis Catholic School is dedicated to nurturing all students academically, physically, spiritually, emotionally and socially through our faith based curriculum in a safe and welcoming Catholic environment.
Goal #2	By June 2027, St. Denis Catholic School will strengthen its Bullying Prevention Program by implementing structured safety practices to create a safer, more supportive school environment, with regular evaluations to assess adherence and impact.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

* Students will go to the washroom in pairs and will fill in a sign out and in chart in the classroom
* Washroom doors to remain open to minimize potential for bullying to occur
* All students are reminded on a daily basis to play safely
* All students are reminded to follow lunchtime routines (sit during lunch, remain seated, keep classroom neat, follow teacher on duty's instructions for line up and exiting)
* All students and parents are reminded to bring only nut free food to school
* Nut free foods are only allowed
* Sharing of snacks not allowed
* Bus students review bus safety procedures regularly or on an as needs basis - assigned seating if necessary
* All visitors must report to the office - sign the visitor book and wear a visitor badge
* All food to be dropped off on trolley in main office.
* Students are reminded to follow safe entry and exit procedures - walking in a straight line and holding the railing

Responsibility

* Principal
* All Staff
* Parents/Guardians
* Students

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

* Board and Community Resources
* Student Handbook
* Principals to share best practices and share ideas re: interesting presentations, guest speaakers

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

* Visitor Tags and visitor sign in binder used on a daily basis
* Lunchtime and inclement weather schedules included with regular duty schedules
* Supervisors ensure that the yard and field are clear before entering the school after all recesses
* Communication with Parents re: nut free environment, review safety procedures with students at home
* Anaphylaxis in-service for all staff
* Student identification board with all students with health concerns
* Medical Alert duo tangs for all staff
* Student health concerns indicated in teacher emergency plans/supply plans
* Lunchtime Supervisor hired to help support with supervision during lunch hour
* Fire and lockdown drills practiced throughout the year
* Bus incidents are reduced

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	St. Denis Catholic School is dedicated to nurturing all students academically, physically, spiritually, emotionally and socially through our faith based curriculum in a safe and welcoming Catholic environment.
Goal #3	By June 2027, St. Denis Catholic School will enhance its Bullying Intervention and Resources Program by fostering a respectful and inclusive school culture through with regular updates to parents via CSPC Meetings, email communications, and internal evaluations to measure program effectiveness.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

* Staff and students greet each other with kindness and respect
* Monthly virtues are discussed and classes will honour their students on a monthly basis
* School Spirit events to build community - Dress down for Charity etc.
* Student Buddies - pairing younger and older students to work together and model positive behavior
* Regular dress code checks to ensure students are in proper dress code
* Communicate the initiatives with parent community via monthly newsletters
* Provide leadership opportunities for grade 6, 7 and 8 students.

Responsibility

* Principal
* All Staff
* Parents/Guardians
* Students

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

* Board and Community Resources
* Teachers working collaboratively
* Staff sharing best practices
* Safe School resources

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

* Increase in the number of students being acknowledged for their good deeds and positive attitude
* More students having a positive attitude as visible through their actions and words
* More intermediate students involved in at lease 1 leadership opportunity
* Increase number of students feeling safe at school, on the bus and in the community
* Reduce the number of students that experience or witness incidents of bullying
* Safe and Caring Catholic Schools survey data.

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 enhance the quality of the working and learning experience through improving schools and workplaces so that they contribute to positive healthy and respectful relationships.
Goal #1	Early and ongoing intervention strategies that help prevent unsafe or inappropriate behaviour in school and school related activities.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

* Students will review the school Code of Coduct and Expectations on a regular basis in class
* School website will contain school's Code of Conduct for students and teachers to refer to
* Teachers will use the progressive discipline approach outlined in the school Code of Conduct
* Parents informed at CSPC meetings about the progressive discipline model
* Utilization of Social Work and Guidance Councillor services as needed
* Request support from Police Liaison Officer on an as needs basis

Responsibility

* Principal
* School Staff
* Parents/Guardians
* Students
* Safe School Team

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

* Board Directives
* Intranet
* School Resources
* Safe School Department
* Police Liaison Officer

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

* Progressive Discipline Plan to be reviewed and revised if necessary by all stakeholders
* A plan that is fair, judicious and consistent will be communicated to all stakeholders
* Follow a communication protocol that informs relevant support service staff regarding student incidents and interventions
* A reduced number of incidents of unsafe and inappropriate behaviour take place during the school year
* Reduce number of major incidents
* Increase in student safety and behaviour

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	To enhance the quality of the working and learning experience through improving schools and workplaces so that they contribute to positive healthy and respectful relationships.
Goal #2	Staff will use interventions that will sustain and promote positive student behaviour.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

* Staff to encourage positive student behaviour on a regular basis
* Staff to celebrate examples of exemplary behaviour in class and share with school principal
* Staff discussions with students regarding incidents
* Student think papers on an as needs basis
* Regular contact with parents
* Teacher communication logs with students and parents
* Guidance counselling/social work support when deemed necessary
* Use of Zones of Regulation and Social Work support

Responsibility

* Principal
* Teachers
* Support Staff
* Safe School Team
* Students
* Parents

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

* Board Resources

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

* Improved school climate where respect for everyone supersedes all

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	To enhance the quality of the working and learning experience through improving schools and workplaces so that they contribute to positive healthy and respectful relationships.
Goal #3	Clear expectations regarding before/after school behaviour and bus behaviour are communicated to all stakeholders.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

* School has developed and communicated clear expectations of student behaviour before and after school
* School bus safety rules and expectations are reviewed with all students on a regular basis
* School to coordinate bus safety sessions with bus company
* All bus students, before and after school, have reviewed appropriate behaviour
* All buses after school have an attendance checklist
* Students aware of consequences for inappropriate bus behaviour
* Safe Arrival Program
* Ongoing communication with parents regarding bus safety and/or specific bus incidents

Responsibility

* Principal
* Bus Company
* Teachers
* Secretary
* Support Staff
* Parents
* Students

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

* Bus Company Information
* Board Information

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

* Safe Arrival Program: parents are called to ensure that the students are safe
* School Bus Safety Program
* Regular updates of bus lists
* Reduce number of bus incidents

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 include all stakeholders in creating a positive school environment
Goal #1	School to continue to build and maintain a positive and welcoming school climate through a variety of initiatives.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

* Welcome to Kindergarten Program
* Parent Volunteers
* Welcome to St. Denis in September
* Inclusion of parents in presentations and masses
* Christmas Events / School Productions
* Presentations geared toward parental issues
* Sharing of Ministry of Education information with parents
* Parental concerns dealt with on an individual basis by all staff
* CSPC meetings
* Communication through agendas
* Community bulletin board
* School and CSAC planned social events
* Year end Fun Fair in June

Responsibility

* Principal
* Teachers
* Support Staff
* Parents

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

* Board Wide resources

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

* Parents feel valued and supported by the school
* Parent volunteers are active and valued
* Communication and reporting have been established to make parents aware that their concerns are important and that their children are safe.

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	To include all stakeholders in creating a positive school environment
Goal #2	Students as Partners

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

* Participation leadership opportunities and/or trips
* Playday
* School Concerts/Talent Shows
* Reading Buddies
* Morning Prayer and O Canada involvement
* Office Helpers
* Classroom Helpers
* Me to We Initiatives
* Kids 4 Kids Initiatives
* Student tour guides for visitors to the school

Responsibility

* Principal
* Teachers
* Support Staff
* Parents
* Students

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

* Board Wide resources

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

* Virtue of the Month Certificates to acknowledge exemplary students
* Understanding the power of giving to others through the Me To We and Kids 4 Kids initiatives.
* Student leadership opportunities
* Student opinions and ideas are valued and contribute to the school's positive learning environment
* Students view themselves as valuable members of the St. Denis community

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	To include all stakeholders in creating a positive school environment
Goal #3	Curriculum will support and promote positive school culture

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

* Cross Curricular implementation of Religion and Fully Alive programs
* Wellness through the Health and Physical Education Curriculum
* Effective use of Educational Assistants
* Differentiated instruction to support all learning styles
* Inclusion model for Special education.
* Teachers to access Virtue of the Month resources and picture books to share with students
* All stakeholders involved in school events (Advent mass, School productions, sacramental celebrations, graduations)

Responsibility

* Teachers
* Principal
* Parents
* Support Staff
* Parish

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

* Board Wide resources

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

* Catholic values taught through cross curricular teachings
* Recognizing and addressing that there are various needs and learning styles in the classroom
* Cooperative Learning, peer mentoring, team learning

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision		To include all stakeholders in creating a positive school environment
Goal	**#SVP 1**	IF student voice is considered in the decisions made at school level, THEN student ownership of policies and expectations will improve. More student "buy-in".

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

SCC Survey grade 6 and 8
Kids For Kids
Camp Olympia for Grade 6s

Responsibility

Principal
Staff
Students
Parents via CSPC

Resources

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

TCDSB Resources

Measurement of Progress

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

Data from surveys
Student input after Camp Olympia

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision		To include all stakeholders in creating a positive school environment
Goal	**#SVP 2**	IF student voice is considered in the decisions made at school level, THEN student ownership of policies and expectations will improve. More student "buy-in".

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

SCC Survey grade 6 and 8
Kids For Kids
Camp Olympia for Grade 6s

Responsibility

Principal
Staff
Students
Parent community - through CSPC

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

TCDSB Resources

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

Data from surveys.
Input from students AFTER Camp Olympia

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 to review safety procedures
* Teachers to review procedures with students
* Safety posters visible in all rooms in the school

Responsibility

• Safe School Action Team
• Principal
• Police Partners
* Staff
* Students

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

• TCDSB Threats to School Safety Response Procedures
• Police partner

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

• Positive Assessment of Lockdown drill
• Emergency Procedure poster is visible in each classroom
* Staff and students familiar and comfortable with all safety procedures