





2026 - 2027

Safe Schools Plan

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







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SCHOOL NAME	St. Gabriel Catholic School	PRINCIPAL:	De Roma, Antonella
SUPERINTENDENT:	Roy Fernandes		
SCHOOL ADDRESS:	396 Spring Garden Ave Toronto ON M2N 3H5		
STUDENT ENROLMENT:	323		

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	**De Roma, Antonella**	**Parent Rep**	**Lewy, Rebecca**
Teacher Rep	**Makhnitska, Oksana**	**Student Rep**	**Takanashi, Kate**
Teacher Rep	**Tufaro, Ursula**		

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	**2026-02-12**	**2**	**2026-03-25**
3	**2026-09-25**	**4**	**2026-11-05**

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 provide students with a learning environment that respects their individuality and uniqueness, one where all staff are involved in ensuring the physical, emotional, and psychological well being of all.
Goal #1	Provide staff and students with a learning environment that respects their individuality and uniqueness, one where all staff are involved in ensuring the physical, emotional and psychological well being of all.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

At the staff level:
- Provide current resources and information about the Buddy Bench origins and philosophy as a strategy for bullying awareness and prevention.
- Strengthen school culture with education on values surrounding diversity and inclusion through the Buddy Bench
- Informing parents of bullying prevention information and relevant statistics.
- Engage in reflection on the utilization of the Buddy Bench in practice and discuss its success.
- Network with support personnel (referrals to guidance, psychology and social work personnel) to support victims and bullies.
- In conjunction with Guidance and the Library Technician, share resources on The Buddy Bench and how it can assist with bullying awareness and prevention and related strategies (problem-solving, anger management, decision-making, conflict resolution, friendship skills)

At the student level:
- Use Buddy Benches in the school yard to demonstrate an understanding of the importance of inclusion and empathy.
- Engage in reflection of the value of the strategies that the Buddy Bench provides and its utilization
- Each class will be asked to design a "Motto" of bullying awareness to be painted on the Buddy Bench.
- All students will be exposed to the story, the philosophy and the values of the Buddy Bench through story, research and drama.

At the parent/community level:
- Partner with parents in learning about the Buddy Bench as a bullying prevention and awareness strategy to support their children in handling instances of bullying effectively.
- Engage in reflection on the implementation and utilization of the Buddy Bench.
- Communicate the latest school and board initiatives on the topic of anti-bullying via the CSPC Communications Committee.
- Network with various organizations to support victims and bullies.
- Further communicate through Twitter on the successes of the Buddy Bench project.

Responsibility

Principal
Safe School Action Team
CYW
Teachers
Early Childhood Educators
Support Staff (Educational Assistants)
Students
Parents
Toronto Police Services Community Liaison-Officer
Guidance, psychology and social work personnel
Library Technician

Resources

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

The Buddy Bench Project (thebuddybenchproject.com)
Code of Conduct
Student Agendas
TCDSB resources: Bullying Awareness Kit
Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario Document
Ontario Schools Code of Conduct
COPA We All Belong Multimedia Toolkit and Stand Up! Bullying Awareness Week Teacher's Guide Grades 4-6
COPA website http://infocopa.com/copa-in-english
Kids Help Phone website http://org.kidshelpphone.ca/en/bullying-awareness
Safe@Schools portal http://safeatschool.ca/

Measurement of Progress

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

- Reflection and Feedback (staff/students/parents)
- Presentations, in-services, websites and home/school communications about the utilization and effectiveness of the Buddy Bench Project
- Communication protocol that informs relevant support service staff regarding student incidents and interventions.
- Ongoing monitoring

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	To provide students with a learning environment that respects their individuality and uniqueness, one where all staff are involved in ensuring the physical, emotional, and psychological well being of all.
Goal #2	Provide staff and students with a learning environment that respects their individuality and uniqueness, one where all staff are involved in ensuring the physical, emotional and psychological well being of all.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

At the staff level:
- Liaise with relevant resource personnel in the Special Support Services Dept. as well as the Safe School Dept. to support students and maximize their well-being.
- Call parents and write relevant notes in agendas.

At the student level:
-Students will consistently use the agenda as a communication tool.

At the parent/community level:
- Include Safe Schools matters at every CSPC meeting.
- Highlight a Safe Schools section in the monthly school newsletter, with practical tips.
- Communicate via the school website.

Responsibility

Principal
CYW
Guidance, psychology and social work personnel
Teachers
Safe School Action Team
Early Childhood Educators
Support Staff (Educational Assistants)
Students
Parents

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

Board-wide resources
Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario Document
Ontario Schools Code of Conduct
COPA We All Belong Multimedia Toolkit and Stand Up! Bullying Awareness Week Teacher's Guide Grades 4-6
COPA website http://infocopa.com/copa-in-english
Kids Help Phone website http://org.kidshelpphone.ca/en/bullying-awareness
Safe@Schools portal http://safeatschool.ca/
TCDSB Safe Schools Department
Guidance
Special Support Services Team (APT, Psychologist, Social Worker)

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

- Feedback from superintendent
- Feedback (staff/students/parents)
- Presentations, in-services, websites and home/school communications about the nature and dynamics of bullying behaviour.
- Communication protocol that informs relevant support service staff regarding student incidents and interventions.
- Ongoing monitoring
- TCDSB Bullying Climate Survey

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	To provide students with a learning environment that respects their individuality and uniqueness, one where all staff are involved in ensuring the physical, emotional, and psychological well being of all.
Goal #3	Provide staff and students with opportunities to practice what they learn in the school yard.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

At the staff level:
- Receive training in the Progressive Discipline Application.
- Facilitate Restorative Conflict Mediation Circles (RCMC) for conflict mediation.
- Proactive school- and board-level initiatives (staff, student and community).

At the student level:
- Self-regulate and choose an appropriate course of action in addressing bullying behaviours.
- Participate in Restorative Conflict Mediation Circle (RCMC) techniques for conflict mediation.
- Proactive school- and board-level initiatives (staff, student and community).

At the parent/community level:
- Communicate on a case-by-case basis with parents.
- Proactive school- and board-level initiatives (staff, student and community).

Responsibility

Everyone.

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

MOE Safe and Caring School Document
Supporting Minds Draft version 2013
Staff Resources
TCDSB Safe Schools Committee

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

Reduction in number of suspensions.
The results of the Safe Schools Climate Survey(Grade 6, 8 Cohorts).

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	A whole school approach that utilizes a continuum of interventions, supports and consequences.
Goal #1	Create consequences designed to support the pro-social development and future behaviour of the person responsible for the action.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Teachers will:
- Use the progressive discipline approach outlined in the handbook/code of conduct.
- Discuss issues with students
- Keep a behaviour log
- Liaise with parents/guardians
- Implement a loss of privileges system
- Remove from class if necessary
- Refer to guidance or social work for additional support
- Involve principal when needed on a case-by-case basis and be involved in the decision for an appropriate consequence.

Principals will:
- Communicate with teachers on a case-by-case basis
- Determine whether warning of suspension or suspension are warranted (under Bill 212: Section 306 and 310).

Students will:
-Voice their opinions, their perspectives and have the opportunity to explain (as already embedded in the Progressive Discipline process)

Parents will:
-Offer their support and reinforce the consequence

Responsibility

Principal
Parent Community
Teachers
Social Worker
Guidance Counsellor
CYW

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:

Intervention strategies will provide students with appropriate supports that address inappropriate behaviour which will result in an improved school climate.

Students seek teacher assistance when necessary (i.e. school yard).

Peer Mentoring
An improved school climate, as measured by observation and refection as well as a decrease in Incident Reports.

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 work together with students, staff, parents, church and community to develop and sustain a positive, safe and inclusive school culture. This includes Spirit Days, Carnaval. the Drama Club, Eco club, and various athletic teams and intramural opportunities.
Goal #1	To establish a school based Safe Schools Team that meets to discuss concerns and implements strategies to improve school climate.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Student Leadership Groups will voice concerns
Safe Schools to be a standing agenda item on School Staff and CSPC meetings.

Responsibility

Principal
Teachers
CYW
Students
Parents
Community Groups
TCDSB Community Liaison officers.
Everyone

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

Board wide Resources
Classroom/School Resources
TCDSB Safe Schools.
Community Liaison Officers.

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

School Climate Survey
Input from staff, parents and students.

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	To provide students with a learning environment that respects their individuality and uniqueness, one where all staff are involved in ensuring the physical, emotional, and psychological well being of all.

Goal	**#SVP 1**	Every Grade 7 and 8 student will have the opportunity to take on initiatives throughout the year.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Invitation
Opportunity

Responsibility

All Stakeholders

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

TCDSB opportunities for self expression
School based opportunities for self expression

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

Student leadership expansion

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

If an alarm sounds while in the building, all parents and visitors are to exit immediately. Students will follow standard fire drills procedure as outlined by the Toronto Fire Department. In the event of a high risk incident involving weapons, chemical spills, severe weather, or stranger intrusion, etc. occurs in the school vicinity or on school property, the "Emergency Response" procedures are initiated. (Lockdown, Hold and Secure and Shelter in Place). Teachers discuss emergency procedures with students on a regular basis. Emergency response binder is located in the office and emergency response procedures are located in all teachers emergency plans.

Responsibility

Principal
Teachers
Support Staff
Students

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

Board-wide Resources
Class/School Resources

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

6 fire drills are conducted throughout the year to ensure that the students are aware of the proper procedures to be followed in a emergency. Routine "Emergency Response Procedure" drills take place at least twice during the year.