

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. Helen Catholic School	PRINCIPAL:	Helling, Gianna
SUPERINTENDENT:	George Danfulani		
SCHOOL ADDRESS:	1196 College St Toronto ON M6H 1B8		
STUDENT ENROLMENT:	194		

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	**Helling, Gianna**	**Teacher Rep**	**Oliveira, Sandra**
Teacher Rep	**Fotiou, Tania**		

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	**2026-10-09**	**2**	**2026-10-23**
3	**2026-11-13**	**4**	**2027-04-02**

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	Students will thrive in a school environment in which every member of the school community feels a strong sense of belonging and acceptance; the physical, emotional, social, spiritual, intellectual, and psychological well-being of every student is nurtured; bullying intervention and prevention strategies are clearly defined, understood, and demonstrated.
Goal #1	Students will understand and use the three steps to Solving a Conflict

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Presentations and announcement on Bullying and Cyber Safety
Virtues of the Month - Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week Announcements, "Pink Shirt Day"
Classroom and school-wide discussions about bully, bullied, bystander
Guidance counsellor/teachers and social worker to arrange discussions on cyber, physical and verbal bullying
Use of Progressive Discipline Plan
Home-school communication by all staff to inform parent/guardians of any suspected bullying situations
Explore presentations on bullying awareness and prevention and on positive school culture
Announcements by administration and student council
Use of SNAP & Zones of Regulation as strategies

To establish mechanisms for safe and confidential reporting practices, promoting the idea of "Be an Upstander, Not a Bystander" by encouraging students to safely intervene and report bullying behaviours; to continue to reinforce the difference between tattling and reporting inappropriate behaviours; to use classroom meetings as a strategy to learn and practice safe methods of intervening in bullying situations; to establish a clear and consistent follow-up plan for incidents of bullying and harassment

Responsibility

Principal
School Staff
Parents
Students
Office Staff
Social Worker

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

TCDSB Safe School Bullying Resources
TCDSB Bullying Prevention and Intervention
Guidance Teacher
School Social Worker

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

Ongoing monitoring
Measured at halfway point through the school year and end of school year
Staff observation/Anecdotal evidence
Number of student/parental concerns raised regarding bullying
Number of students sent to office for bullying behaviours
Number of Progressive Discipline Reports dealing with bullying
Student Survey - Safe Schools

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	Students will thrive in a school environment in which every member of the school community feels a strong sense of belonging and acceptance; the physical, emotional, social, spiritual, intellectual, and psychological well-being of every student is nurtured; bullying intervention and prevention strategies are clearly defined, understood, and demonstrated.
Goal #2	Students can describe what actions constitute Bullying and some actions to respond to anti-social behaviour.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Students are made aware of the issues surrounding bullying through the use of presentations
Internet Safety/Cyberbullying presentations in class by local authorities through zoom and other Student Leader initiatives run by the Student Council for the entire school community
Bullying Awareness Instruction through discussion, mentor texts, role-play by classroom teacher, activities/workshops during Bullying Awareness Week
Make sure students and parents aware of the TCDSB Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) at the beginning of and throughout the school year (Morning announcements, Newsletters, etc.)

Promote Catholic School Graduate Expectations
Provide opportunities for all students to express needs and report incidents of concern

Responsibility

Principal
Teachers and Support Staff
Guidance Counsellor
Students

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

Progressive Discipline
Safe School Resources
Catholic Schools Climate Survey
Outside Organizations
Board Policy

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

Anecdotal Evidence/Observations - Staff
Number of incidents requiring Incident Log
Safe and Caring Catholic School Climate Survey

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	Students will thrive in a school environment in which every member of the school community feels a strong sense of belonging and acceptance; the physical, emotional, social, spiritual, intellectual, and psychological well-being of every student is nurtured; bullying intervention and prevention strategies are clearly defined, understood, and demonstrated.
Goal #3	Students can describe the attributes of the virtues of the month.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Students are aware and following through the Virtues of the Month
Monthly Presentation of award certificates
Daily announcements by administration and student council
Information on monthly virtues in the school calendar
Code of Conduct-including staff meetings & student assemblies to reinforce the message
Conflict Resolution workshops, presentations, classroom activities
Bullying Awareness Instruction through discussion.

Responsibility

Principal
School Staff
Guidance Counsellor
School Social Worker

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

TCDSB Safe School Bullying Resources
Guidance Teacher
School Social Worker
Bullying Prevention and Conflict Resolution Student Workshops
Progressive Discipline

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

Catholic Schools Climate Survey
Anecdotal Evidence/Observations
Progressive Discipline Incident Logs

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 encourage and provide students with a Catholic based learning environment that promotes positive student behaviours and interactions.
Goal #1	To increase awareness among staff, students and parents, regarding the TCDSB Safe School Policy and Bullying Prevention Strategies, by providing specific programming, supports and practices to encourage positive social interactions.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Encourage positive proactive approaches to student discipline at all levels
Provide support to staff regarding using the TCDSB Progressive Discipline application
Ensure students learn and understand the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations
Recognize students who exemplify the TCDSB Virtues and the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations
Encourage student success across the curriculum and provide leadership opportunities to develop a climate of inclusivity and student success with input from student council

Responsibility

Principal
School Staff
Student Council
Guidance Counsellor
Social Worker

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

Documents - Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario
Student Leader initiatives
PPM 145 to support Bullying Act
School and Board Policies available on-line
Library: Picture books for reinforcement
Morning announcements
Use of Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations and Virtues of the month
Ontario Mental Health Tool Kit
School Social Worker

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

The following metrics will be used to measure progress in achieving the Goal:
Use of common language "progressive discipline" by all stakeholders
Teachers completing appropriate forms and documentation- Safe School Application - Progressive Discipline
Staff implementing Progressive Discipline approaches
Parents, guardians, students and staff familiar with all forms of bullying and sharing collective responsibility for ensuring its minimal occurrence
Observation and reflection of incidents that occur during the school day
Number of Progressive discipline incidents and number of suspensions by June 2027

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	To encourage and provide students with a Catholic based learning environment that promotes positive student behaviours and interactions.
Goal #2	To create and maintain an environment where all students feel they are part of a safe and caring learning community.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Teachers learn to use the Safe School Progressive Discipline application and to communicate respectfully and more frequently to parents regarding both positive and challenging student behaviours
Create positive relationships through communication, effective classroom management and a school-wide approach to progressive discipline
Support students who have been targets of hurtful and/or bullying behaviour through peer mediation (Peacekeeping), Progressive Discipline
Increase staff awareness of the strategies outlined in the Ministry Document, Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario
Provide tiered interventions through various personnel (Guidance/Social Worker/School Based Support Learning Team)

Responsibility

Principal
Teachers
School Staff
Guidance Counsellor
Social Worker

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

Progressive Discipline application
Catholic Schools Climate Survey
Human Resources
Board Document

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

Use of common language “Progressive Discipline” by all stakeholders
Teachers completing appropriate forms and documentation- Safe School Application - Progressive Discipline
Staff implementing Progressive Discipline approach

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 collaborate with students, staff, parents, Church and community to develop and sustain a positive, safe and inclusive school environment.
Goal #1	To increase student involvement in developing and maintaining a positive and safe learning environment by encouraging students to take on roles of responsibility and leadership in the school community.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Student involvement in social justice issues (i.e. Food Drives, Toy Drive, Me to We initiatives etc
Junior Buddies - role modeling for our younger students at school assemblies and Masses
Student involvement in community building (Church activities, Food Banks, School Spirit events,etc.)
Ensure the understanding and modeling of the Catholic Graduate Expectations and Virtues of the Month in and out of school
Provide support to staff in using Progressive Discipline approach/application
School student body (K-8) attend monthly school Masses
Celebrate student achievements by recognizing virtue of the month recipients.

Responsibility

Principal
Teachers
School Staff
Students
Parents
Guidance Counsellor

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

Human Resources
Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario - Ministry Document
Progressive Discipline/Safe Schools Manual
Catholic School Graduate Expectations
TCDSB Virtues of the Month Resources

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

Students demonstrating leadership
Students requesting/suggesting extracurricular and leadership activities
Student Survey
Improved social interactions among students in the classroom and outside
Students demonstrating the Virtues of the Month and Catholic School Graduate Expectations

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	To collaborate with students, staff, parents, Church and community to develop and sustain a positive, safe and inclusive school environment.
Goal #2	To increase student and staff engagement in the St. Helen Catholic School Community and focus on Charity as measured by discipleship in action.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Monthly School Masses
Professional Activity Days Prayer Liturgies
Monthly focus on Virtues with banners displayed in school office
Students of the Month selected based on demonstration of Virtues displayed for all to see (certificate, picture, etc.)
Provide a spiritually-based program for students to understand and care for each other through TCDSB Religion programs
CSPC community building events
Other school events that invite students and families to participate
Charity fundraisers such as: Socks for Souls, Food drives.

Responsibility

Student Leadership Team
Staff
CSPC and other Parents
Priest and Liturgical Committee
Students

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

School Board and Community Resources
Ministry Document: Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario
Religion programs

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

Active participation/Number of attendees of students, staff and community members at events
Feedback from community

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	To collaborate with students, staff, parents, Church and community to develop and sustain a positive, safe and inclusive school environment.
Goal #3	Ensure that all students and families to St. Helen Catholic School feel welcomed and safe.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

-Students and families are welcomed to the St. Helen School community
-When necessary the Social Worker and Guidance Counsellor may also play a role in assisting the student to adjust to the school
-Welcome to Kindergarten event welcomes pre-registered kindergarten students and families to the school.
-Introduce EARLY ON CHILD & Parent Centre to new parents
-Continue the DOVERCOURT Boys & Girls After School program
-Continue the Novos Horizontes Portuguese after school program
-Invite families to St. Helen Church school masses and share St. Helen Church support (re: food bank, sacramental preparation, etc.)

Responsibility

Principal
Staff
Social Worker
Guidance Counsellor

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

Toronto Public Library

Abrigo

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

Student/family participation in school events (i.e. concerts, family evenings)

Families register at St. Helen because of positive feedback/suggestion of current students' families

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	To collaborate with students, staff, parents, Church and community to develop and sustain a positive, safe and inclusive school environment.
Goal #SVP 1	To increase student voice in developing and maintaining a positive, safe, respectful learning environment, and a sense of belonging and acceptance.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Student leaders, Student buddy system, student involvement in spirit events/community events/liturgies, Terry Fox

Responsibility

Students
Principal
Staff

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

Catholic School Graduate Expectations
TCDSB Virtues of the Month Resources
Caring And Safe Schools in Ontario - Ministry Document

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

Student Survey
Student involvement and leadership

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

Safe Schools "Emergency and Crisis Response Plan Procedures" poster displayed in all rooms of the school.
Minimum of 4 Lockdown Drills and 6 Fire Drills within the school year.
Staff and students are well informed about proper procedures and are given useful resources to review.
Staff and students constantly practice class drill procedures between scheduled school drills.

Responsibility

Principal
Custodian
School staff

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

TCDSB Threats to School Safety Resources

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

Successful Lockdown Practice - Evidence that procedure has been followed correctly.
Successful Fire Drills - Evidence that evacuation procedures have been followed correctly.