

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. Marcellus Catholic School	PRINCIPAL:	Ogiorumua, Vera
SUPERINTENDENT:	Richard Walo		
SCHOOL ADDRESS:	15 Denfield St Toronto ON M9R 3H2		
STUDENT ENROLMENT:	402		

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	**Balthazaar, Tanya**	**Support Staff Rep**	**Borg, Michelle**
Administrative Rep	**Ogiorumua, Vera**	**Parent Rep**	**Kristy Radford**
Teacher Rep	**Durante, Sarah**	**Student Rep**	**Grade 8 students**
Teacher Rep	**Sharma, Anna**		

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	**2026-11-06**	**2**	**2026-12-10**
3	**2027-02-09**	**4**	**2027-05-12**

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. Marcellus Catholic School community is committed to creating a safe, and respectful learning environment, where children are encouraged to reach their full potential and strive for excellence. Our goal is to educate and meet the needs of our students in the following areas: spiritual, emotional, social, physical, academic, and mental well-being of all the students in the school community.
Goal #1	Students and staff to identify and respond proactively to indicators of bullying in the school community.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

-raise awareness against bullying from JK-Gr. 8
-encouragement of classroom conversations around the nature of bullying, with reference to definitions and real-life scenarios
-honour students who best demonstrate the virtue each month with Certificates of recognition and publishing their names in the Monthly newsletters
-anti-bullying activities will be promoted on a school wide basis as available
-promote TCDSB virtues in our daily actions, announcements, masses, assemblies, and bulletin board displays
-promotion of Equity and Inclusion initiatives
-school wide announcements about anti-bullying
-PALS and S4W to encourage co-operation and communication
-school wide participation of pink shirt day
-dialogue with support staff, Guidance Counsellors, Social workers and administration
-review Students Agenda on the Safety Procedures of the school
-presentation by Toronto Police
-regular scheduled Safe Schools Team meetings to review plan
- use of restorative practices (from Hacking School Discipline)
- promote the use of respectful language towards teachers and students (Words Matter campaign)

Responsibility

- Principals
- Teachers
- Religion Rep
- TCDSB Religion Resource teacher
- Support Staff
- Students
- Police Officer
- Parents
- Social Worker
- Pastor
- TPH Nurse

Resources

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

- TCDSB Safe Schools Policy
- TCDSB Pastoral Plan
- Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations
- Multi-Year Strategic Plan
- Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy
- St. Marcellus handbook found in student agendas
- School Improvement and Equity Plan
- Promoting a Positive School Climate: A Resource for Schools
- Anti-bullying presentations, as possible
- Playground Activity Leaders in Schools (PALS)
- Student Mental Health Ontario
- TCDSB Mental Health Tool Kit
- TCDSB Equity SharePoint Site
- Hacking School Discipline series

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:

-enhanced school culture where the differences are accepted, and inclusion is the demonstrated standard of acceptance
- Positive peer relations as measured in the Safe and Caring School Climate Survey
- Students positively and actively engaged in their learning
- Less conflicts occurring during unstructured times
- Healthy environment where respect and acceptance is operative, and is evident by students, teachers and parents

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Goal #2	Students and staff identify different strategies to prevent bullying behaviours in the school community.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- promote the Catholic Graduate Expectations at all grade levels in child friendly language.
- encouragement of classroom conversations around the nature of bullying with reference to real life situations
- communicate anti-bullying initiatives and strategies through CSPC meetings, newsletters and school portal
- Participate in Anti-Bullying and Bullying Awareness initiatives
- Virtue of the month recognition
- on-going communication to parents, and with parents on a regular basis
- ensure that yard supervision is monitored and staff is used effectively
- immediate response to bullying situations with attention to progressive discipline
- school wide announcements about anti-bullying
- participation in pink shirt day.
- promote wellness initiatives such as as meditation.
- Student leaders participate in PALS and S4W

Responsibility

- Principal
- Vice principal
- Teachers
- Support Staff
- Students
- Parents

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

- TCDSB Safe Schools policy
- TCDSB Pastoral Plan
- Catholic Graduate Expectations
- Multi-Year Strategic Plan
- Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy
- Learning for All
- St Marcellus handbook found in student agendas
- Student Mental Health Ontario
- TCDSB Mental Health Tool Kit
- TCDSB Equity SharePoint Site
- Board Learning Improvement Plan
- School Learning Improvement Plan
- Curriculum Resources for the HPE regarding cyberbullying and internet Safety (Gr. 4 and up)

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

-limit the amount of progressive discipline forms being completed
-a reduction in the number of incidents reported in the classrooms and on the playgrounds during recess
-teacher observation of increased positive interactions between groups of students
- Positive peer relations as measured by the Safe and Caring School Climate Survey
- students engaged in their learning
- less conflict during unstructured time

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	St. Marcellus Catholic School community is committed to creating a safe, and respectful learning environment, where children are encouraged to reach their full potential and strive for excellence. Our goal is to educate and meet the needs of our students in the following areas: spiritual, emotional, social, physical, academic, and mental well-being of all the students in the school community.
Goal #3	Students and staff identify and apply different strategies to create a safe, inclusive and caring learning environment.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- Anti-Bullying activities supported by administration, teachers, CYWs, Social Worker, Guidance Counsellor and outside agencies
- Social skills programs
- Anti-Bullying announcements to promote bullying awareness and strategies (Nov.)
- Immediate response to bullying situations and the use of restorative practices
- Raise awareness against bullying from JK- Gr. 8
- Posting posters with positive messages and pictures of our own students
- Participation in board wide equity initiatives such as the Mic Drop contest and cultural heritage month celebrations.
- Food drive to assist the local community
- Staff meeting to refresh teachers' understanding of effective practices.
- regular visits from the priests and seminarians at Transfiguration R. C. Church.
- regular visits from the Rosary Apostolate
- PD regarding restorative practices and bite sized PD from the Equity department

Responsibility

- Principal
- Vice principal
- CYW
- EAs
- Teachers
- Students
- Parish priest
- TCDSB Safe Schools department

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

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

-TCDSB and classroom resources
-Angel Foundation
-PPM 144: Bullying and Prevention and Intervention (The Ontario Ministry of Education)
-Bill 212: Progressive Discipline and School Safety
-Playground Activity Leaders in Schools (PALS) and S4W
-Anti-Bullying presentations as applicable
- Equity department
- Transfiguration R.C. Church Parish
- Rosary Apostolate
- Hacking School Discipline Series
- Toronto Public Health Nurse

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

- Progressive discipline incidents will decrease
- Students reporting bullying to staff members will increase
- Improvement in school climate as indicated on the Safe and Caring School survey completed in the spring
- healthy environment of respect and acceptance is evident(calm hallways, recess play is safe)

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	We educate children who are created in God's image and Likeness; armed with the Catholic Faith, will apply Christian values to life opportunities, challenges, and choices; Children who will display self-esteem and self respect, and strive to be the best they can
Goal #1	We seek to empower all stakeholders to promote and sustain positive students behavior and well-being in a safe and healthy environment by supporting students to make appropriate choices regarding their behavior and providing consistent and logical consequences to correct inappropriate behavior.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- Ensure staff, students and parents are aware of the various intervention strategies and supports available.
- Consideration of mitigating factors
- Identify current effective practices
- Ensure staff understand progressive discipline model and reporting platform
- Ongoing communication with parents
- Follow board protocols in area of Safe Schools
- Work closely with parents to address and prevent inappropriate behavior
- Regular review of school uniform and school code of conduct
- Staff visibility particularly while out on duty
- Restorative Practices

Responsibility

- Principal and vice principal
- Teachers
- EAs
- DECEs
- Students
- Parents
- Social Worker
- Assessment Programming Teacher
- CYW

Resources

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

- School code of conduct
- TCDSB Pastoral Plan
- Safe and Caring Schools
- Learning for All
- Board Policies/ Safe School
- Hacking School Discipline

Measurement of Progress

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

- Progressive discipline reports will be documented accordingly when incidents arise in the school community
- A sense of security will be documented on the Safe and Caring School Climate survey
- An improvement of student behavior throughout the school day indicated through provincial reporting periods
- Reduced number of incident reports

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	We educate children who are created in God's image and Likeness; armed with the Catholic Faith, will apply Christian values to life opportunities, challenges, and choices; Children who will display self-esteem and self respect, and strive to be the best they can
Goal #2	Our school's code of conduct is understood and implemented by all members of our school community.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- Code of conduct printed in student agenda
- Progressive discipline approach used to address incidents of behavior that are contrary to the code of conduct
- Code of conduct reinforced through announcements and classroom discussions
- Mitigating factors considered when addressing inappropriate behavior
- Provide staff with a repertoire of strategies and interventions with which to address inappropriate behavior
- Communication with parents regarding progressive discipline protocols

Responsibility

- Administration
- Teachers
- EAs
- DECEs
- Social worker
- Students
- Parents/Guardians

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

The following resources will be utilized to support these initiatives/strategies/practices:
- Code of conduct
- Safe schools resources

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:
- Students are able to identify how their behavior contravenes the school's code of conduct
- Reduced number of reportable incidents on the progressive discipline online platform
- Teachers are able to use the code of conduct to address inappropriate student behavior

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 promote a safe, positive and inclusive school community as part of school, parish and home life.

Goal #1 To strengthen the bond between school, home and parish and implement initiatives that will create and maintain a safe, nurturing and inviting environment for all stakeholders.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- Plan and work closely with Transfiguration Parish to facilitate school masses
- Implement the new Pastoral Plan
- Work with CSPC to encourage family engagement and community events
- ongoing communication with families through newsletters, calendars, and updates
- regular review of Safe Schools plan
- highlight student success and achievement
- Share anti-bullying tips with the school community through Student Leader initiatives
- Regular rosary apostolate visits.
- Regular visits from the parish priest and seminarians.

Responsibility

- administration
- support staff
- teachers
- students
- parents
- Parish Priest
- CSPC
- lunchtime supervisors
- CYW

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

- TCDSB Pastoral Plan
- Religion and Fully Alive resources
- NCC resources (prayers and liturgies)
- Safe schools resources
- Mental health resources provided by TCDSB

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

- Improvement in results in Safe and Caring School Climate survey
- Increased parent involvement in community events
- Increased involvement in CSPC meetings
- Positive interactions in the school community

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	To promote a safe, positive and inclusive school community as part of school, parish and home life.
Goal #2	To improve student mental health and well being across all grade levels.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- Include mindfulness activities throughout the day in classes
- Provide strategies for managing social conflicts and stress
- Focus on monthly virtues through announcements and class discussions
- Random Acts of Kindness (recognition of students' act of kindness through announcements)
- The implementation of 'Wednesday Wellness,' where students engage in moments of quiet time and meditate after Lunch every Wednesday.

Responsibility

- administration
- teachers
- EAs
- DECEs
- Students
- Parents
- Social worker
- Guidance counsellor
- CYW

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

- Mental health resources provided by TCDSB
- Guidance corner and newsletter
- TCDSB Pastoral Plan
- NCC prayers and reflections
- Student Mental Health Ontario
- TCDSB Mental Health Tool Kit
- TCDSB Equity SharePoint Site

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

- Increase in 'random acts of kindness' ballots to be recognized weekly
- Reduction in referrals for guidance
- Improvement in student achievement
- Reduction of incident logs reported on the Progressive Discipline platform.

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	To promote a safe, positive and inclusive school community as part of school, parish and home life.
Goal **#SVP 1**	Students provided with opportunities to lead and actively participate in school, parish, and home life.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- Student Council to build community among students
- Rosary Apostolate program
- Extra-curricular activities
- L2L

Responsibility

- Teachers
- Administration
- Students
- EAs/CYWs/DECEs
- Rosary Apostolate program
- Lunchtime supervisors
- L2L Lead Team

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

- NCC resources
- OPHEA resources

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

- increase student engagement in extra and co-curricular activities
- positive play during recess
- increase in student engagement in parish activities
- positive results in safe and caring school climate survey
- Student involvement and feedback

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 term.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- Emergency response procedures posted in all rooms of the school
- Review threats to school safety so that common language is used and understood
- Review procedures with staff through email
- Six fire drills per year
- 4 lockdown dills per year
- Inform parents about threats to schools safety procedures through CSPC
- Inform Safe Schools of threats to school safety
- Keep up to date records of security breaches and threats to school safety

Responsibility

- Emergency response procedures posted in all rooms of the school
- Review threats to school safety so that common language is used and understood
- Review procedures with staff through email
- Six fire drills per year
- 4 lockdown dills per year
- Inform parents about threats to schools safety procedures through CSPC
- Inform Safe Schools of threats to school safety
- Keep up to date records of security breaches and threats to school safety

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

- TCDSB Threats to School Safety response procedures
- Police and fire department partners
- fire safety plan
- emergency response protocols

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

- positive assessment of lockdown drills
- emergency response procedure posters visible throughout the school
- smooth and orderly fire drills throughout the year