

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. Mary Catholic Academy	PRINCIPAL:	Gomes, Lisa
SUPERINTENDENT:	George Danfulani		
SCHOOL ADDRESS:	66 Dufferin Park Ave Toronto ON M6H 1J6		
STUDENT ENROLMENT:	668		

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	**Gomes, Lisa**	**Teacher Rep**	**Faye, Christianne**
Administrative Rep	**Martins, Angela**	**Teacher Rep**	**Mannella, Stefani**
Administrative Rep	**Simari, Michelangelo**	**Support Staff Rep**	**Harrison, Lise-Anne**
Teacher Rep	**Coyle, Michael**	**Support Staff Rep**	**Maieron, Giovanna**
Teacher Rep	**Dela Cruz, Rosemarie**	**Student Rep**	**Allen, Sarah**

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	**2026-03-05**	**2**	**2026-04-09**
3	**2026-10-14**	**4**	**2026-12-02**

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	- Enhance student understanding of bullying, anti-bullying strategies, and effective reporting mechanisms. - Foster a school environment that is safe, inclusive, and welcoming for all members of the community. - Strengthen students' sense of belonging within a Catholic school community grounded in Gospel values and the TCDSB Pastoral Plan.
Goal #1	- By May 2027, all students at St. Mary Catholic Academy (SMCA) will participate in at least three school-wide initiatives—including grade-level retreats, anti-bullying education (Huddle UP Program) - The Huddle Up Bullying Prevention Program aims to encourage students to stand up for injustices to help prevent bullying, racism and discrimination. This program is supported by MLSE (Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment-Argonauts/Leafs/Raptors/TFC).

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week: November 16–20 - During Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week, St. Mary Catholic Academy will engage students in a series of activities designed to promote awareness, empathy, and proactive strategies for addressing bullying.

Educational Slide Presentations: - Slides highlighting the types of bullying and effective response strategies will be displayed on digital screens throughout the school.

Who Cares? Initiative - Caring Adults: - Caring adults will distribute small treats (e.g., lollipops) accompanied by positive and affirming messages to students. This gesture is intended to foster a welcoming and inclusive school environment, reinforcing a culture of kindness and belonging.

Artistic Displays - Huddle UP Bulletin Board Bullying Prevention Display.

Huddle UP Player Assembly - An assembly geared towards students in grades 9 or 10. One Athlete will be assigned to the assembly by the Huddle Up staff. The Athlete will share with students positive messages to help promote and strengthen bullying awareness and prevention.

Poster Initiative - Identify Key Messages and have them placed strategically around the school.

Colouring for Kindness Activity - Student-led mindful colouring activity on giant poster paper.

Administrative Engagement: - School administration will maintain a visible presence throughout the building, including hallways and classrooms, by conducting regular walkthroughs and classroom visits during each period. This ongoing commitment supports a safe and welcoming school environment.

Special Event: Safe Schools Ambassador Symposium - On Wednesday, November 18, selected students will participate in the Safe Schools Ambassador Symposium, an initiative aimed at empowering student leaders to promote safety, inclusion, and respectful peer interactions. St. Mary Catholic Academy students will present at the Safe Schools Ambassador Symposium, featuring school wide initiatives which took place in the previous school year.

Responsibility

- SMCA Safe and Accepting School Action Team
- SMCA Student Safe School Ambassadors
- SMCA Staff (Admin, Teachers, CYW, EA's, Student Supervisor)
- SMCA Student Council

Resources

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

- Safe and Accepting School Team - Google Classroom
- St. Mary Catholic Academy Code of Conduct (Agenda/Good Vibes Bookmarks)
- School Engagement Team
- Safe School Action Team.
- Student Safe School Ambassadors
- MLSE Huddle Up
- TCDSB Anonymous App
- Chaplaincy

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:

- MLSE participation data through module completion.
- Exit Cards for Anti-Bullying Week.
- Positive Affirmations / Safe School Box

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	- Enhance student understanding of bullying, anti-bullying strategies, and effective reporting mechanisms. - Foster a school environment that is safe, inclusive, and welcoming for all members of the community. - Strengthen students' sense of belonging within a Catholic school community grounded in Gospel values and the TCDSB Pastoral Plan.
Goal #2	- By June 2027, increase student awareness of available support resources within the St. Mary Catholic Academy (SMCA) community by implementing a minimum of three targeted initiatives—such as classroom presentations, digital signage, and resource fairs. Effectiveness will be measured through student surveys and in the number of students who can identify and access key school-based supports (e.g., guidance, chaplaincy, mental health services).

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Skill-Building: -Students will engage in small group discussions and role-play activities to learn and practice concrete strategies for navigating and de-escalating bullying situations.

Chaplaincy and Youth Group Engagement: - The Chaplaincy Team will lead youth group initiatives that foster spiritual growth, peer support, and community building.

Pastoral Plan Implementation: - Activities aligned with the Catholic School Pastoral Plan will be used to cultivate a strong sense of belonging and connection to Gospel values.

Awareness Campaigns: - TCDSB Anonymous Reporting App posters will be prominently displayed throughout the school (in classrooms) to encourage safe and confidential reporting of concerns and on school TV screens.

Student-Led Assembly: - A student-led assembly to feature a drama skit focused on bullying prevention and intervention, empowering students to take active roles in promoting a positive school climate.

Responsibility

- Safe and Accepting School Team
- Student Safe School Ambassadors to continue to lead school wide presentations on Bullying Awareness and Reporting
- Continuous promotion and follow up of the Anonymous Application
- School Engagement Team will continue to complete their yearly presentation on Bullying Awareness and Reporting.
- Staff (Teachers, CYW, EA's Student Supervisors, Nursing Student) continue to build positive rapports with students and be identified as caring adults.
- Administration to continue to build rapports with students and address all incidences of bullying in a fair and equitable manner.

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

- Safe and Accepting School Team - Google Classroom
- St. Mary Catholic Academy Code of Conduct (Agenda)
- School Engagement Team Feedback to be shared
- TCDSB safe schools resources

Some of the Portal Content:

Bullying Awareness and Prevention
Student Ambassador
Resources
International Day of Pink

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

- Student 'check-ins' from CYW and Administration for students who have experienced bullying to determine next steps. We will work towards increasing the percentage of students who feel comfortable in reporting that they have been bullied to staff members.
- Anonymous Alerts
- Number of students in participating in clubs.
- Number of students in Youth Group.
- Student Attendance.

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	- Enhance student understanding of bullying, anti-bullying strategies, and effective reporting mechanisms. - Foster a school environment that is safe, inclusive, and welcoming for all members of the community. - Strengthen students' sense of belonging within a Catholic school community grounded in Gospel values and the TCDSB Pastoral Plan.
Goal #3	- By June 2027, increase student participation in co-curricular and extracurricular activities at St. Mary Catholic Academy (SMCA) through targeted promotion led by student leaders. This will include hosting a Club Fair, regular announcements, and digital campaigns highlighting available clubs and athletic opportunities. Success will be measured through participation data and student feedback surveys, with a focus on fostering a greater sense of belonging and inclusion within the school.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- Professional Development - Bullying Awareness, Reporting (TCDSB-Anonymous App) and Incident Reports using the TCDSB-Progressive Discipline Safe Schools App.

- Professional Development - Duty to Report, The Third Path, Safe Schools PD (sharing with staff).

For students:

- Huddle UP Bullying and Prevention Program. - Leadership Initiatives along with mentored students at lunch. Assembly for students about bullying prevention.
- Using Resolution Conference and Mediation Circles to resolve incidences of bullying.
- Anonymous Reporting Application available and displayed within the school.
- Poster Awareness- Information on effects of bullying.

Responsibility

- Safe and Accepting School Team.
- Student Safe School Ambassadors.
- School Engagement Team (14 Division) presentations.
- Whole-school approach in implementing and creating a progressive discipline model.
- Administration to utilize a continuum of prevention programs, initiatives, supports and consequences to address inappropriate behavior and build on strategies that promote positive behavior.
- Continue to create a progressive discipline model that promotes positive students behavior early and ongoing through clear communication of school Code of conduct and expectation. Grade level assemblies outlining appropriate and acceptable behaviour early in the academic year.
- Administration to continue to be present in the school building throughout the day as well as complete class visits to classes.
- Administration to address all bullying incidents utilizing the progressive discipline mode.
- Staff (Teachers, CYW, EA's, and Student Supervisors) to effectively address any forms of bullying within their classrooms utilizing the progressive discipline model.
- All staff will be responsible for ensuring a safe and bully-free community.
- The guidance team, school psychologist, social worker, CYW's, public health nurses and administrative team will collaborate to create important learning opprotunities for our community.

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

- Promotion of TCDSB-Anonymous Application throughout the school.
- Professional Development for teachers, including how to create a Mentally Healthy Classroom.
- Caring adult program.
- TCDSB safe school workshops and resources
- Student Workshops and Discussion Groups in classes or virtually.

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

- Analyze the number of incidents reported to Administration and or TCDSB-Anonymous Application.
- Anonymous Report Data.
- School Club Survey Data end of semester 1 compared to end of semester 2.

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

- Implement consistent Progressive Discipline practices to support the development of a safe, inclusive, equitable, and welcoming school environment for all students.

Goal #1

- Establish a Supportive Progressive Discipline Model: - Implement a Progressive Discipline framework that emphasizes corrective and restorative practices, rather than solely punitive measures to promote accountability, and positive behavior change. Build Staff Capacity for Safe Schools Reporting: - Provide ongoing support to enhance staff proficiency in identifying, documenting, and reporting Safe Schools incidents. Reduce Discipline Incidents through Preventative Measures.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- Teachers to engage with Pyramid of intervention to help support progressive discipline model.
- Documentation of Safe School incidents on the TCDSB - Progressive Discipline Platform in a timely fashion using My Cority platform.
- Early ongoing appropriate supports and ministry initiatives provided to students (CYW, Student Supervisors, Social Worker Support, Student Success, Graduation Coach, and caring adult).
- Include learning opportunities for reinforcing positive behavior, help students make better choices (I.e. Reflection/Think activity and Mentorship).
- School staff will utilize a range of interventions, supports and consequences that are developmentally and socio-emotionally appropriate prior to suspension/expulsion.
- Staff reinforces the Code of Conduct and has high expectation for students behaviour.
- Reinforcing the Pastoral Plan - In God’s Image - Growing In Knowledge with Justice.
- Co-constructed success criteria for learning skills and Catholic Graduate Expectations.
- Using a restorative approach with students.
- Administration will continue to visit all classes throughout the school year to review the School Code of Conduct/uniform to ensure that the community is one that is welcoming and caring and where learning is at the center of how we interact with each student.

Responsibility

- Administration
- Staff
- Chaplaincy Team
- CYW's
- EA's
- Student Supervisors
- Custodians

Resources

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

- Ministry of Education & Ontario College of Teachers - Duty to Report.
- TCDSB -Progressive Discipline Safe Schools - Incident Reporting Form.
- PMM 145 - Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour.
- PPM 144 - Safe School Incident Reporting Form.

Measurement of Progress

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

- Progressive Discipline Data.
- Suspension Data.
- Restorative practice data.
- CYW - Monitoring Students.

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	- Promote a positive school climate that prioritizes safety, equity, inclusion, and acceptance for all members of the St. Mary Catholic Academy community. - To Foster an inclusive and positive climate that is centered around creating a sense of ownership, pride and belonging within the St. Mary Catholic Academy community. - To implement an education around mental health, mindfulness, and well-being that will endeavour to offer our students' skills in resiliency and overall healthy living.
Goal #1	Foster a Welcoming and Inclusive School Culture: - Cultivate an environment where all students feel safe, welcomed, included, and accepted as valued members of the St. Mary Catholic Academy community. Promote Empathy, Equity, and Respect Across Stakeholder Groups: - Build a school culture rooted in empathy, equity, and mutual respect among students, staff, educators, parents/guardians, and the broader community, ensuring that all interactions reflect the values of dignity and collaboration.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- Morning announcements to be welcoming daily with prayer, reflection and reminders around school climate and culture.
- Opening Classroom visits by school administration and CYW to begin school year to welcome students, acknowledge participants in sports, and officially introduce and welcome new staff.
- Inspirational music in the morning during opening exercises and during dismissal to create a more welcoming community.
- Chaplaincy - Community outreach, Youth Group.
- Bullying Prevention Awareness Week Initiatives.
- Mental Health Assemblies/Workshops (anxiety, self-image) for classes led by the CYW, Social Workers and Mental Health Services Professions.
- Building Healthy Relationships initiatives led by CYW.
- Mental Health Action Team - Mindfulness Workshops, Third Path (PD tool).
- CYW to continue with mindfulness, meditation and self-awareness through class visits and information workshops.
- Staff demonstrating accessibility and genuine care for students (caring adult, student supervisors, administration, CYW, Social Workers, guidance teachers).
- Opportunities for student-voice (where student feel that their perspectives and voices are heard and valued).
- Student Outreach - Culture Links International Students Club.
- Offering school nutrition program.
- Promoting diversity through Heritage Month Celebrations.
- A-Team through SAGA to promote student led initiatives that raise awareness around inclusivity and belonging.
- Student Safe School Action Team (Huddle UP Student Safe School Ambassadors) - These are the student representatives on the Safe School Action Team. They communicate initiatives of the team to the student body. (i.e. Bullying awareness - promote pink shirt campaign and help administer and organize Safe School events such as Bullying Prevention Week.
- New Comer Parent Meetings to help recent arrivals with student school transition into the country.
- SMCA will take part in a campaign to raise bullying awareness and prevention as well as awareness about inclusion through the Huddle UP program. This program is founded by the MLSE and designed for grade 9 and 10 students. Student ambassadors for this program will continue to serve the SMCA community regarding to Bullying Prevention and Inclusion to our grade 9 students.

Responsibility

- Students
- Administration
- Staff
- Chaplaincy Team
- Safe and Accepting School Team
- SAGA
- MHAT
- Safe and Accepting School Action Team
- CSPC members
- SIEP Team
- BEA team

Resources

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

- TCDSB Pastoral Plan - In God's Image: Growing in Knowledge.
- St. Mary Catholic Academy - Code of Conduct (Agenda).
- Ministry documents pertaining to bullying and prevention.
- Working with the Equity and Inclusivity department and the SMCA Equity Action Team at the TCDSB.
- Huddle UP Program - MLSE
- Catholic Education Week Activities
- School Announcement TV.- Promoting Anonymous Application
- Good Vibes
- Social Media Safety
- Vape detection and information
- Saga
- TCDSB Acceptable Use Policy.

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

- Feedback offered by staff and students at monthly staff meetings, one-on -one conferences. Teacher-student dialogue etc.
- Feedback offered at Mental Health and Wellness week.

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	- Promote a positive school climate that prioritizes safety, equity, inclusion, and acceptance for all members of the St. Mary Catholic Academy community. - To Foster an inclusive and positive climate that is centered around creating a sense of ownership, pride and belonging within the St. Mary Catholic Academy community. - To implement an education around mental health, mindfulness, and well-being that will endeavour to offer our students' skills in resiliency and overall healthy living.
Goal #SVP 1	- Cultivate a school culture at St. Mary Catholic Academy where all students feel safe, included, and accepted as valued members of the community.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- Opportunities for student-voice (where student feel that their perspectives and voices are heard and valued)

- 2 times a semester Town Hall's with students and Administration (one student per each homeroom)

- Students present on student council can voice their concerns during the CSPC meetings.

Responsibility

- Administration
- Staff - Teachers, EA, CYW, Student Supervisors

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

- Anonymous Alert Application
- School TV Announcements
- Exit Cards
- SMCA Code of Conduct (Agenda).
- Safe and Accepting School Team - Google Classroom.

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

- Observations and conversations
- Anonymous alerts
- School Club Survey Data

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

This year we are dedicated to improving our Emergency Response Preparedness Response Drills in order to effectively deal with threats which our school community may face. SMCA will educate its staff, students and parents about the planning and procedures undertaken to ensure a safe school community. As a community we will:

- Update Red Emergency Procedure Folders in all school classrooms
- Reminders to staff and students about protocols for Lockdown, Shelter in Place, Evacuation, Bomb Threats
- Ensure that all classrooms contain the 'Emergency and Crisis Response Plan Poster'.
- Email reminders to staff prior to all the first emergency response drill to ensure that procedures are followed correctly and after execution of drill for constructive feedback.
- Ensure classrooms are equipped for lockdown drill (I.e. Door Window Coverings and Functioning door lock).
- Creation of Emergency/Lock Down Bag as per Police (which includes hard copy of floor plans, a set of washable markers, keys for all classrooms).
- Invite Police Officers to the school to practice Bomb Threat drill with our school community.
- Have the School Engagement Team present when completing all Safe School Drills.
- Evacuation Drill - St. Anthony's

Responsibility

- Administration to in-service staff.
- Staff review of emergency procedures.
- Toronto Police Service to in-service staff.

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

- TCDSB-TPS Safe School Protocol
- Emergency Response Procedures (Red Folder)
- Emergency Evacuation Response Plans for those staff and student who require.

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

- Progress and Areas of need communicated through the safe schools climate survey.
- TCDSB Safe Schools Manual

Contents - Emergency Response Procedures, Safe Schools Lockdown Training, Safety Plan (Various Safe Schools Documents)

- Review of drills and procedures

- Times: Lockdown, Bomb Threat: with input from staff and students

- Annual review of procedures.