

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. Matthew Catholic School	PRINCIPAL:	Di Nizio, Paul
SUPERINTENDENT:	Robert D'Addario		
SCHOOL ADDRESS:	18 Lavender Rd Toronto ON M6N 2B5		
STUDENT ENROLMENT:	461		

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	**Di Nizio, Paul**	**Teacher Rep**	**Vizinho-Zapata, Alexandrina**
Administrative Rep	**Omoregie, Harriet**	**Parent Rep**	**Alexandra Arcilesi**

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	**2026-09-16**	**2**	**2027-04-07**
3	**2027-04-21**	**4**	**2027-11-18**

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

1. To increase student safety awareness and internet/cyber bullying at all grade levels through anti - bullying initiatives to enable students to feel safe and become productive, contributing and constructive citizens.
2. Continue to collaborate with Church, and school community to support our school initiatives on Bullying awareness.

Goal #1

Goal 1- Continue to encourage regular classroom conversations around the nature of bullying, through literature and videos with explicit reference to definitions and scenarios.
Goal 2- Continue to educate students and parents the difference between conflict and bullying.
Goal 3- Continue to invite motivational speakers to support our Safe School's initiatives.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- Bullying Awareness Week resources and awareness
- PA Announcements as reminders for safe and respectful play
- Recognizing Student of the Month recipients and celebrating their successes
- Recognizing students' acts of kindness
- Regular communication between students/teachers/staff/administration and parents
- Educating students through guest speakers on the topic of bullying
- Social Worker, Guidance Counsellor and all staff to support students who have experienced conflict/bullying to develop strategies they can use, focus on their own strengths and build resilience
- Ensure the Code of Conduct is available, easy to understand and implemented by all
- Encourage regular classroom conversations around the nature of bullying, through literature and videos with explicit reference to definitions and scenarios
-Explaining to students and parents the difference between conflict and bullying

Responsibility

-Principal
-Vice-Principal
-All Staff
-Students
-Parents
-Guidance Counsellor
-Social Worker
-Toronto Public Health workshops
-Toronto Police Services workshops

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

-TCDSB Guideline: Keeping Our Students Safe (Reporting an Incident using the Progressive Discipline/Safe School Reporting Form - Part 1 on Progressive Discipline/Safe School Platform
-Guest speakers
-SBSLT members
-Safe and Caring Catholic Schools Climate Survey
-Classroom/School resources
-Safe Schools Team
-Equity Action Plan/Equity Champion
-The School Code of Conduct
-www.bullying.org
-www.kidshelpphone.ca
-http://www.cyberbullying.ca/
-Toronto Police Workshops
-Catholic Graduate Expectations
-Toronto Public Health and Wellness Nurse

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

-School Climate Survey results (2024-2025)showing a decline in acts of conflict and bullying.
-Staff Observation/Anecdotal Evidence.
-Reduction in the number of bullying incidents reported to teachers and school administration (2026-2027).
-Reduction in the number of progressive discipline reports generated by teachers (2026- 2027).
- Continue to monitor overall academic performance of students with challenges to determine support needed.(2026 - 2027)

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	1. To increase student safety awareness and internet/cyber bullying at all grade levels through anti - bullying initiatives to enable students to feel safe and become productive, contributing and constructive citizens. 2. Continue to collaborate with Church, and school community to support our school initiatives on Bullying awareness.
Goal #2	Goal 1- Continue to encourage regular classroom conversations around the nature of bullying, through literature and videos with explicit reference to definitions and scenarios. Goal 2- Continue to educate students and parents the difference between conflict and bullying. Goal 3- Continue to invite motivational speakers to support our Safe School's initiatives.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

-Provide teachers with Safe Schools posters outlining specific strategies for reporting bullying behaviour
-Internet Safety/Bullying Presentations
-School-wide participation in Pink Shirt Day
-St. Matthew Student Agenda Planner
-Progressive discipline application
-Consideration of mitigating factors when issuing suspensions
-Equity Action Plan
-Equity Champion working with student leaders to share anti-bullying messages with students and creating upstanders
-Peace by PEACE is a registered student-run charitable organization that challenges junior/intermediate students to critically evaluate, prevent, and resolve conflict in their daily lives
-Students are recognized with certificates when they exemplify virtues of the month
-Model and encourage positive and healthy behaviours and interactions

Responsibility

-Administration
-School Staff
-SBSLT
-Guidance Counsellor
-Parents/Guardians
-Toronto Police Services presentations
-Toronto Public Health workshops

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

-Guest speakers
-SBSLT
-Staff
-Parents
-Guidance counsellor presentations
-Safe and Caring Catholic Schools Climate Survey
-Classroom/school resources
-Safe Schools Team
-Progressive Discipline/Safe school Platform
-Use of restorative practices
-Implementation to Bullying Awareness and Decision-Making guides through the Fully Alive program

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

-Students see themselves as valued members of the school community and take pride in representing their school
-Reduction in the number of reported bullying incidents
-Classroom observation of student behaviour engaging in respectful communication
-Safe and Caring Catholic School Climate Survey

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	1. To increase student safety awareness and internet/cyber bullying at all grade levels through anti - bullying initiatives to enable students to feel safe and become productive, contributing and constructive citizens. 2. Continue to collaborate with Church, and school community to support our school initiatives on Bullying awareness.
Goal #3	Goal 1- Continue to encourage regular classroom conversations around the nature of bullying, through literature and videos with explicit reference to definitions and scenarios. Goal 2- Continue to educate students and parents the difference between conflict and bullying. Goal 3- Continue to invite motivational speakers to support our Safe School's initiatives.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

-Members of the St. Matthew School community will be guided by Jesus' Golden Rule message: "Treat others the way you would like to be treated"
-Acknowledge positive behaviours through the Student of the Month/Virtue of the Month acknowledgements
-Have conversations with students by encouraging them to build better relationships with each other especially in the school yard
-PA announcements encouraging students to be more mindful of the impact their thoughts, words and actions have on others
-St. Matthew has as a core belief of "Kindness" Each morning, during announcements, students are encouraged to: "Always be kind, gentle and respectful peacemakers to one another." Students are reminded to: "Keep your hands and feet to yourself, use your hands for helping, not hurting, make good choices, use your words to solve your problems, seek and ask an adult for help."
-School mantra for 2025-2026: "Everyone at St. Matthew is welcome, included, safe and loved." As well as: "Educators lead with love."

Responsibility

-Principal
-Vice Principal
-Staff
-Guidance Counsellor
-Parents
-Students

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

-Principal
-Vice Principal
-Staff
-Guidance Counsellor
-Safe and Caring Catholic Schools Climate Survey
-Classroom/school resources
-Safe Schools Team
-Parish

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

-Students see themselves as valued members of the school community and take pride in representing their school
-Number of reported progressive discipline incidents
-Classroom observation of student behaviour being respectful
-Safe and Caring Catholic School Climate Survey

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 create a welcoming and safe environment for all and sustain and promote positive student behaviour through early and ongoing intervention strategies.
Goal #1	To establish a whole school community approach that utilizes a continuum of prevention programs, interventions, supports, and consequences to address inappropriate student behaviour and to build upon strategies that promote and foster positive behaviours.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

For this academic year, we will continue to provide support in our school using the following strategies :
-Interventions, supports and consequences within the Progressive Discipline Plan of the school will focus on restorative practices, reinforce positive behaviours and help students make good choices
- will consider mitigating factors like the student's age, the student's identification/diagnosis, the circumstances of the behaviour, and the student's history before determining the most appropriate way/outcome to respond to each situation
-Student reflections
-Meeting with parents
-Guidance intervention and social work intervention initiated in a timely manner especially to address mental health and wellbeing (MHAT).
-School Team Student Contract to reduce the withdrawal of privileges, such as participation in a field trip or sporting event
-Suspension
-Full implementation of student IEP recommendations
- Continous implementation of Hacking school discipline strategies.

Responsibility

-Principal
-Vice-Principal
-Staff
-Students
-Parents
-Community members
-Social Worker
-Guidance Teacher

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 Guideline: Keeping Our Students Safe: Reporting an Incident using the Safe Schools Reporting Form - Part 1 and Progressive Discipline Incident Report
- Religious Education Programs & Family Life Program: Fully Alive Program
- School Code of Conduct, and Safe and Caring Catholic School Climate Survey
- Teachers who have taken Safe Schools, CPI or First Aid training and/or in-services
- TCDSB Safe Schools Action Team Guidelines, Equity Action Plan and Mental Health Action Plan
- Use of behaviour contracts, think/reflection papers, and formative consequences
- Guidance teacher and social worker visits to classes and/or individual students

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

- Decrease in the number of progressive discipline incidents(conflict and bullying)(i.e., number of students sent to office for bullying behaviour
- Decrease number of suspensions
- TCDSB Survey student voice
- Decrease in the number of Guidance and Social Work referrals.

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	St Matthew school community will continue to create a positive school culture that is central to our vision of a safe and welcoming environment. Students at St. Matthew Catholic School will function within a positive school climate that is inclusive and accepting of all, regardless of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, citizenship, family status or disability.
Goal #1	- We will continue to create a safe and welcoming place that fosters a healthy learning environment through the collaboration of school, parents and community members.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

-St Matthew School will continue to
- Reinforce socially responsible and respectful behaviour
- Use the Catholic Graduate Expectations as part of the morning announcements
- Recognizing students through the Virtue of the Month Award
- Communication with parents through student agendas, conferences, School Messenger & online/hardcopy newsletters/updates
- Community partnership with Toronto Public Health, Toronto Police, Special Services staff, Parish Pastors
- Monthly school masses and participation of sacraments
- Provide a spiritually-based program for students to understand and care for each other through TCDSB Religion and Fully Alive programs
- School and CSPC community building events
- Welcoming of new ELL students
- Acknowledging and creating awareness of Equity inclusivity, and Heritage Month and days through visible signs:
  -Raising the Pride Flag
  -Every Child Matters Flag
  -The Terry Fox Walk
  -Multicultural Lunch hosted by parents, teachers and administrative staff
- Autism Awareness Month, Learning Disability, Epilepsy Week
- Encouraging school practices that demonstrate our PASTORAL PLAN 2024-2027 IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope in Year 3: Justice

Responsibility

-Administration
-Staff
-Students
-Parents
-Parish
-St. Matthew Safe School Team
-Community Liaison Partners: Toronto Police and Toronto Public Health Nurse

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 Guideline: Keeping Our Students Safe (Reporting an Incident using the Progressive Discipline/Safe Schools Reporting Form - Part 1 & Progressive Discipline Incident Report Form)
- Ministry Document: Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario
- Religion and Family Life web resource on Virtue and the New Pastoral Plan: IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope
- Guidance Teacher and Social Worker to visit classes and/or individual students
- Utilize services of the School Psychologist
- School/Church/Home Partnership
-MHAT and Hacking school Discipline Strategies to support our school Community.

Measurement of Progress

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

- Increase in the incorporation of student-led activities and initiatives
- Student safe school survey results
- Parent communication through the Catholic School Parent Council
- Parent anecdotal information regarding learning environment, school safety, and social responsibility demonstrated by students and staff
- Student positive responses in Safe and Caring Catholic School climate
- Fewer incidents reported to administration

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	St Matthew school community will continue to create a positive school culture that is central to our vision of a safe and welcoming environment. Students at St. Matthew Catholic School will function within a positive school climate that is inclusive and accepting of all, regardless of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, citizenship, family status or disability.
Goal #SVP 1	Students will follow the new school mantra: "Everyone at St. Matthew is welcome, included, safe and loved." Remember to always be kind, gentle and respectful peacemakers.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

-Culturally responsive pedagogy and texts
-Empowering students to speak up when they see themselves or others in unsafe situations e.g., be an upstander
-Encouraging students to share personal stories from their diverse backgrounds

Responsibility

Principal
Vice-Principal
Staff
Students
Parents
Community members

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

-Culturally relevant learning material in the classroom
-Updated picture books in the school library
-Multicultural books

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

-Student survey in June to determine if students see themselves in the curriculum and school environment
-Observations on students' appreciation and respect for one another

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

- Teachers follow procedures as delineated in The Emergency and Crisis Response Plan - "Threats to School Safety Response Procedures"
- Teachers will display Emergency and Crisis Response Plan posters in their classrooms
- Teachers will review with their students the various lockdowns (e.g., Hold and Secure, etc.)
- Teachers are familiar with the locations they are to seek refuge in should the school be in lockdown and they and their students cannot enter the school
- Three fire drills will be conducted per term
- Creating Student Plan of Care, Student Safety Plan and Student Behavioural Support Plan
- Documenting office first-aid and incident reports
- Autism Workshops for staff
- First Aid and CPI Workshops for staff
- Anaphylaxis in-service for all staff (two/year)

Responsibility

Principal
Vice-Principal
School Staff

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

-Threats to Safety Response Procedures Poster
-Health and Safety Bulletin Board in the staff room
-Workplace Violent and Harassment video for staff twice a year
-Anaphylactic Video for staff twice a year
-Protocols for Prevalent medical conditions
-Epi pen one in the school office
-Epi pen one on student in a fanny pack

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:
- The Principal will asses each drill; evaluating and ensuring that proper procedures are followed.
- Make use of feedback from staff and students
- Measure progress on term by term basis and procedures reviewed as required
- Successful drills and responses to threats on-site and communication between all stakeholders.
- Ensuring Health information is updated and placed in appropriate locations in the school.