

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. Rita Catholic School	PRINCIPAL:	Dragicevic, Maria
SUPERINTENDENT:	George Danfulani		
SCHOOL ADDRESS:	178 Edwin Ave Toronto ON M6P 3Z9		
STUDENT ENROLMENT:	74		

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	**Dragicevic, Maria**	**Support Staff Rep**	**Valentino, Maria**
Administrative Rep	**McGowan, Julie**	**Parent Rep**	**Ms. Dos Reis**
Teacher Rep	**Bird, Eric**	**Community Rep**	**Palermo, Tony**

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	**2026-01-29**	**2**	**2026-02-27**
3	**2026-09-15**	**4**	**2026-12-01**

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

1. Bullying Awareness, Intervention and Prevention Plan

Providing students with an opportunity to learn and develop in a safe and respectful society is a key goal of the TCDSB. Providing students with an opportunity to learn and develop in a safe and respectful environment supports academic achievement for all students, which in turn, helps them to reach their full potential. Research and experience show that bullying is a serious issue that has far-reaching consequences for individuals, their families and peers and the entire school community. Schools that have bullying intervention and prevention strategies foster a positive learning and teaching environment that supports academic achievement for all students and that helps students reach their full potential. PPM 144

School Vision	To create an atmosphere where growth mindset is demonstrated in positive behaviour.
Goal #1	By May 2027, 80% of students will be able to identify and demonstrate at least two WITS strategies and name a trusted adult they can approach to report bullying or seek help, as measured through classroom discussions, role play, and student surveys. Staff will explicitly teach and reinforce these strategies monthly to support respectful relationships and a safe, inclusive school environment.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Have students sign a class pledge
Cultivate Personal Responsibility In The Classroom (blackboard monitor, paper people, computer whiz, mail carrier, special buddy)
Team Building Activities/Projects
Guest Speakers - WITS and SEL discussions and proactive strategies for dysregulation.
Class discussions to resolve issues/concerns
Student surveys
Bulletin Board with positive affirmations (eg.: good listener, peaceful, motivated, loving, calm, careful, etc.)
WITS Self reflection activities (examining your personal beliefs about bullying)
Create personal action plans/goals for behaviours
Keep effective anecdotal records
Teach exclusive behaviours & inclusive behaviours
Understanding Emotions: Walk in someone else's shoes
Safety/Behaviour Plans
Set up a peace place in the classroom
Explore the lives of famous peacemakers
Monitor triggers/warning signs (school & school work, social, physical, emotional/behavioural)
Be a good listener
Encourage a positive attitude
Use Stop Now and Plan
Recognize virtue award winners in newsletter on a monthly basis.
Recognize Catholic Graduate Expectations Monthly with Leadership team conducting read alouds in classrooms with culminating tasks.

Responsibility

Staff
Parents
Students
CSPC
Guidance
Social Worker
Principal

Resources

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

Safe Schools Dept
Social Work Dept. & Guidance Teacher
Behaviour Team
The Bully Free Classroom by: Allan L.Bean, Creating Caring Classrooms By: Kathleen G. Lundy & Larry Swartz, Creating a Bully-Free Classroom By: Carol S. McMullen
Teaching Self-Control By: M.Henley
Guided by the TCDSB pastoral theme, “In God’s Image: Growing in Knowledge with Justice and Hope,” we will nurture a safe, caring and inclusive school community where every student’s dignity is respected and relationships reflect compassion, fairness and belonging.

Measurement of Progress

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

Class rules be created with student input and easy to understand
Class surveys
Incident reports
Suspensions
Communication logs regarding bullying behaviour
Staff and parental feedback
Observation of decrease in recess conflicts and/or anti-social behaviours.

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	To create an atmosphere where growth mindset is demonstrated in positive behaviour.
Goal #2	Growth Goal: By June 2027, students will demonstrate a growth mindset through increased perseverance, respectful interactions, and the use of positive strategies to manage challenges and resolve conflicts, as evidenced by student reflections, staff observations, and fewer repeated behavioural incidents.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Class leaders/ambassadors
Build resources that reflect diversity & equity
Build resources that reflect feelings & peace education
Bingo - Bullying Awarness and Prevention ELP: Pics, 1/2 Words, 3-8 Word Search
Each class promotes kindess in class: Caught you being Kind awards
Pink Shirt Day, Rowan's Law (Purple Day)
Encourage safe reporting
Teach assertiveness
Emphasize cooperation and collaboration
Foster empathy
Strengthen relationship between school and parish
Provide problem solving strategies to increase students sense of safety and advocacy.
School Mass/Assemblies
Reading Buddies.
Activity Days with senior students being leaders
Classroom helpers/leaders in jobs
Daily Prayers / student leaders from classes

Responsibility

Staff
Students
Father Joseph (Parish Priest)

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

Student Voice Survey
K-3 Resource Hub Early Resource Hub Years Sesame Street videos Empathy and how we show Empathy

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

Checklists of positive social skills.
Peer and Self evaluations.
Teacher anecdotal notes.

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	To create an atmosphere where growth mindset is demonstrated in positive behaviour.
Goal #3	To foster a positive and inclusive school environment where students demonstrate a growth mindset through perseverance, respectful interactions, self-regulation, and a willingness to learn from mistakes.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Use new literature/resources from Equity Dept.
Students will use I Care language
Drama, role playing
Be a Buddy not a Bystander lessons
Use Scripture " The Good Samaritan" "Mustard Seed", "The Prayer of St. Francis"
Social stories on feelings and empathy
Discuss with students the negative effects of bullying.
Teach about relational bullying and how to cope with it. (Book: My Secret Bully~ with lessons)
Mean Girls video from TVO

Responsibility

Staff, students, parents
Guidance Councilor
Social Work
Community Liaison Officer

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

Safe Schools Dept
Social Work Dept
Mental Health & Awreness nurses
TVO
Guidance Dept.
OPHEA Social Emotional Learning Resources

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

Incident reports
Suspensions
Case conferences
Meeting with parents
Successful completion of initiatives

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	Progressive Discipline is a step by step approach to intervene on behaviours that reflect bullying and negative behaviour. The goal is to address the behaviour, understand where the behaviour is coming from and ensure that the behaviour is not repeated. As a community and in partnership, staff, parents and students will collaborate on a nurturing learning environment that is rich in respect, integrity, justice and acceptance.
Goal #1	To develop de-escalation strategies to assist students in taking greater responsibility for their actions.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Mind-Set lessons
De-escalation Strategies
Understanding Big and Small Problems and how to deal with them.
Staff will explicitly teach and consistently reinforce the WITS strategies: Walk away, Ignore, Talk it out, and Seek help. Through classroom lessons, role play, visual reminders, and daily interactions, students will practise resolving peer conflicts respectfully and seeking support from a trusted adult. This shared language will support bullying prevention, positive relationships, and a safe, caring, and inclusive school community.

The WITS strategies align with the program’s official guidance. [WITS Program](https://witsprogram.ca/what-is-the-wits-program-english/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
Establish consequences to negative behaviour
Guidance Councilor workshops (Mean Girls)
Create closure: consequences and apologies
Implement Zones of Regulation
Feedback from teachers, staff, parents and students
Name bullying behaviours ~ students need to understand that bullying encompasses a broad spectrum of behaviours, none of which are "normal" or acceptable (laugh at people, gossip, leave people out, make people do things they don't want to do, etc.)
Establish that each classroom and shared space is a "Bully Free Environment"
Create "20 Things To Do Instead of Hurting Someone Back"
Have clear consequences in place
Administration, and teachers maintain regular ongoing communication with parents
Student is included in discussions
Meetings are arranged with parents and relevant school personnel
Possible solutions are explored, with input from all parties
Daily communication book outlining specific expectations for student to meet
SBST/Case Conference/SBSLT meeting to discuss concerns
Consideration to safety plan/IEP to outline expectations and needs of student

Responsibility

Teachers
Administration
Parents

Resources

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

Safe school dept.
Social work dept.
Religion dept.
TCDSB Policy S.S11 Bullying Prevention & Awareness
PPM 145: Bullying Prevention & Intervention

Measurement of Progress

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

Suspensions
Incident reports
Communication logs

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. Rita's school culture strives to demonstrate a sense of community and caring relationships to provide all students with greater opportunities to achieve success.
Goal #1	Dedicated time spent everyday in every class engaging students in activities that foster students' positive mental, emotional and physical well-being (e.g., guided meditation and student-led DPA, etc.).

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

School newsletters shared via school messenger as effective lines of communication
Parents are involved in school improvement grants/applications.
Everyone feels safe and secure (Teach positive ways to make a friend, tell a caring adult)
Outdoor Art Club,Sporting Teams
Kindness Box, Kindness Pals, encourage random acts of kindness
Sunshine announcements, reward cooperation
Student self esteem activities
Recognizing and Celebrating Individuality (Marvelous Me bulletin Boards)
Fabulous Friends bulletin boards, Wow, I'm Fabulous!, Yahoo, Look What I Can Do!
Students are invited to contribute ideas and offer feedback (student Council, Student Leadership Activities)
Virtue Recognition in classrooms
Guest Speakers (local authors, bullying specialists)
Teach Friendship Skills, promote teamwork
Build Empathy
Teach students to affirm themselves, teach students to affirm each other
Star charts, Feel Good Posters, feel Good Lists, Self Esteem Boosters, Choices
Give students meaningful responsibilities with gardening & planting.

Responsibility

Staff
Students
Parents
Administration

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

Social work dept.
Outdoor education dept.
Guidance dept.
Equity dept.
Religion & Mental Health dept.

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

School data of student achievement (key assessments, assignments, report card marks, EQAO attitude survey/achievement), CAT/4
Google.com resource:"Do One Thing Today to Help Build A Positive School Culture"

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	St. Rita's school culture strives to demonstrate a sense of community and caring relationships to provide all students with greater opportunities to achieve success.
Goal #2	To encourage students to self-advocate and to learn and practice assertive responses and behaviours.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Social Stories
Zones of Regulation
Part of our school pledge is that everyone is treated with respect
Featured the first Friday of each month, students will create portfolios during their learning experience with W.R.A.P Up Program and implement the strategies learned.
Student self evaluation and self awareness journals
Bully Awareness and and Prevention week
Teen Ranch, outdoor Ed. experiences for confidence and peer relationship development
school fundraisers
peer mentorship
circle of friends
student council
extra curricular clubs/sport teams

Responsibility

Staff
Students
Parents
Administration

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

Social work dept.
Outdoor education dept.
Guidance dept.
Equity dept.
Religion & Mental Health dept.

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

Student self assessments
Peer Assessments
Student surveys
Teacher, staff and parent feedback

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School Vision	St. Rita's school culture strives to demonstrate a sense of community and caring relationships to provide all students with greater opportunities to achieve success.
Goal **#SVP 1**	To have full participation in this survey; all gr.6 & 8 complete the survey

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

To include lessons on voice, perspective, being a positive change maker.
To provide experiences in leadership roles.
To establish a student council.

Responsibility

Staff
Students
Guidance Councilor
Social Work
Administration

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

OTF, "Creating Safe Schools, A Bully Prevention Guide for Teachers"

K. Gould Lundy & L.Swartz, "Creating Caring Classrooms"

OLWEUS, "Class Meetings That Matter"

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

Survey
Teacher assessment of Classroom collaboration/group activities
Incident logs
Verbal feedback from Students, staff & parents

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

ensure that posters are in each classroom/shared place
schedule drills
include tips/drill steps in staff bulletin
reassure students/community that drills are mandatory and that school is a safe place via announcements/parent letters

Responsibility

staff
administrator
employer

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

safe school department
security
Toronto Police

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

tracking sheet with notes
H & S recommendations
staff/parent/student feedback