

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. Thomas More Catholic School	PRINCIPAL:	Di Paolo, Donato
SUPERINTENDENT:	Ryan Peterson		
SCHOOL ADDRESS:	2300 Ellesmere Rd Toronto ON M1G 3M7		
STUDENT ENROLMENT:	299		

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 Paolo, Donato**	**Teacher Rep**	**Colozza, Linda**
Teacher Rep	**Botticelli, Assunta**	**Support Staff Rep**	**Canham, Darlene**
Teacher Rep	**Butler, Jonathon**		

SAFE SCHOOLS PLAN

All schools are required to develop and implement school-wide plans to help create a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment. Each Safe Schools Plan will consist of the following components:

1. Bullying Awareness, Intervention and Prevention
2. Progressive Discipline
3. Promoting a Positive School Climate
4. Emergency Response Plan

In order for all students, staff members and parents/visitors in the school facility to be prepared to respond to a serious threat, the response procedures must be practiced. The Toronto Police/School Board Protocol, 2011 requires a minimum of 2 Lockdown Drills every school year.

Please see below for the scheduled drills:

LOCKDOWN DRILLS 2026-2027

1	**2026-10-16**	**2**	**2026-11-12**
3	**2026-12-10**	**4**	**2027-02-12**

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 Thomas More remains a safe, welcoming and inclusive learning community. The Gospel values are at the core of all school initiatives ensuring that everyone is repected and appreciated. At St. Thomas More the gifts of diversity are shared and appreciated. 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.

Goal #1

All members of the school community will build on their knowledge on how to identify bullying, how to intervene appropriately, who to tell and how to prevent it occurring/reoccurring. A supportive model of intervention will be used within the context of Progressive Discipline. The approach will remain two tiered by empowering/supporting the victim and reeducating the bully using restorative practices.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Whole school initiatives
Teacher student interactions
Principal reinforcement

Responsibility

Ms. Colozza & MS. Shillinglaw -- Lead teachers on Anti-Bullying Committee
Anti-Bullying Committee (Students) and Social Justice Team(students)
K-8 Classroom Teachers
All Resource staff
Principal

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

OPHEA Resources
MOE Guidelines
School Social Worker
Mental Health Ontario

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

Students will REPORT incidents to an adult in a timely manner.
Student Voice Survey

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

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Goal #2	Students will participate in bullying prevention activities such as PA announcements, assemblies, guest speakers and student-led dramatizations.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Staff encouraged to take part in anti bullying initiatives and/or training days.
Staff encouraged to work cooperatively with unified approach to discipline and behavioral response.
School Team will take part in Bullying Awareness and Prevention.
Virtue of the Month assemblies

Responsibility

Social Justice Club (daily announcements, poster contests) Ms. Colozza - team leader
K- 8 staff
Support staff
Principal

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

OPHEA resources and MOE guidelines

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

Increased knowledge and understanding of the nature of bullying and our responses to it.
Student Voice survey

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	St Thomas More remains a safe, welcoming and inclusive learning community. The Gospel values are at the core of all school initiatives ensuring that everyone is repected and appreciated. At St. Thomas More the gifts of diversity are shared and appreciated. 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.
Goal #3	Maintain collaborative dialogue with Catholic School Parent Council, guidance teachers, teachers and students regarding the identification of areas of need and ways to address them. Prioritize student voice.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

School Guidance Counsellor,
School staff
Board Resources
Student council

Responsibility

School Staff
Students
Parents

Resources

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

School Guidance Councillor
School Board Resources
Social Worker

Measurement of Progress

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

Incidents of Bullying will decrease.
Students will demonstrate an understanding of Anti-Bulling strategies
Students will actively take on the role of bullying prevention
Student Voice 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

At St. Thomas More we believe that students and staff work together in partnership to create the most welcoming and affirming environment. As a Catholic Community we believe that all our efforts and actions must be directed toward making us responsible, caring and effective problem solvers.

Goal #1

To create an effective learning environment through positive classroom management, a 'whole school' approach to behavior management, learning grounded on becoming anti-racist and anti-oppressive educators and the support provided by a school-wide progressive discipline plan. A restorative approach to discipline.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Staff encouraged to take part in anti bullying initiatives and/or training days.
Staff encouraged to work cooperatively with unified approach to discipline and behavioral response.
School Team will take part in Bullying Awareness and Prevention.
Monthly Virtue assemblies

Responsibility

Social Justice Club (daily announcements, poster contests)
Student council (under development)
Jk- 8 staff
Support staff
Principal

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

OPHEA resources and MOE guidelines

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

Reduced levels of intervention from staff required
Staff monitoring incidents that are reported by students
Reduced progressive discipline logs/suspensions
Student Voice

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	At St. Thomas More we believe that students and staff work together in partnership to create the most welcoming and affirming environment. As a Catholic Community we believe that all our efforts and actions must be directed toward making us responsible, caring and effective problem solvers.
Goal #2	To promote the use of the Progressive Discipline platform for reporting serious incidents

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

To promote clear communication of school code of conduct and online code of conduct to all community members.
To promote student leadership opportunities.
To ensure all interventions for students (Special Education) are consistent with the IEP
To ensure students are engaged in positive behaviours during recess times (equipment provided)
Ensure St. Thomas More's progressive discipline model is aligned with the Board wide model
Ensure St. Thomas More's progressive discipline model is communicated to students, parents and staff
Ensure staff are making sound professional judgments regarding when and when not to use the Board progressive discipline application

Responsibility

Social Justice Club (daily announcements, poster contests) Ms. Colozza - team leader
Student council (under development)
Teacher leader
Jk- 8 staff
Support staff
Principal

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

OPHEA resources and MOE guidelines

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

Reduced levels of intervention from staff required
Staff monitoring incidents that are reported by students
increase progressive discipline 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

At St. Thomas More we believe that our school can make a Difference. We make a Difference by being active in our school, in our community and our world. We believe that our Faith is visible by our words and our actions. We also are committed to improving and preserving our environment.

Goal #1

To foster and build upon a culture of individual and collective acts of service demonstrating a deep commitment to our students, our community and our neighbours, as guided by our Faith formation.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Virtue assemblies
Eco Tigers

Responsibility

Social Justice Club (daily announcements, poster contests) Ms. Colozza - team leader
Eco Tigers
Student council (under development)
Teacher leader
Jk- 8 staff
Support staff
Principal

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

OPHEA resources and MOE guidelines

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

Reduced levels of intervention from staff required
Staff monitoring incidents that are reported by students
Reduced progressive discipline logs/suspensions.
Student Voice Survey

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	At St. Thomas More we believe that our school can make a Difference. We make a Difference by being active in our school, in our community and our world. We believe that our Faith is visible by our words and our actions. We also are committed to improving and preserving our environment.
Goal **#SVP 1**	Increase student leadership opportunities through the social justice club, student leadership club (ESLIT) and eco club.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Eco Tigers
STM Social Justice Club

Responsibility

Principal
Teachers
Parents
Students

Resources

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

Staff
Toronto Public Health
Social Worker

Measurement of Progress

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

Increase student engagement.

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

Monitoring and scripting for staff and students

Responsibility

Whole school
Principal

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

Ministry of Education
Toronto Police Service
TCDSB Safe Schools Department

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

Smoother and more efficient lock down and fire drills
log of practices
anecdotal observations