

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. Vincent de Paul Catholic School	PRINCIPAL:	Howlett, Brett
SUPERINTENDENT:	George Danfulani		
SCHOOL ADDRESS:	116 Fermanagh Ave Toronto ON M6R 1M2		
STUDENT ENROLMENT:	250		

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	**Howlett, Brett**	**Support Staff Rep**	**G. Vieira**
Teacher Rep	**McInerney Boniferro, Clare**	**Parent Rep**	**J. Nunes**

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	**2026-09-25**	**2**	**2026-10-08**
3	**2026-10-14**	**4**	**2027-05-19**

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. Vincent de Paul School is a safe, inclusive, and healthy learning and teaching environment that supports academic achievement and emotional well being for all students.
Goal #1	Students will practice assertive, yet non-threatening language in their relationships with one another.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

-Form a safe school committee to ensure all stakeholders have an opportunity to participate in discussions.
-Develop a plan for the year and consider the means of implementation
-Determine the activities for Bullying Awareness Week that will enhance school awareness of bullying behaviors and the different types of bullying (morning prayer with a focus on peace, quotes with an anti-bullying message), and relating to Virtue of the Month
-Throughout the year presentations to individual classes as determined by the teacher and the needs of the class by guidance, police, etc.
-Classroom activities about anti-bullying
-Staff development (attending workshops offered through the board, and sharing of best practices by teachers during staff meetings)
-Inspirational speakers, promote positive behaviour

Responsibility

-Members of the Safe Schools Team
-Principal in consultation with Safe Schools Team and other professionals
-Classroom teacher to review the definition and types of bullying
-Students to commit to the school code of conduct
-Parents

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

-TCDSB Safe Schools resources provided for classroom use
-Safe Schools Department
-Guidance
-Police Department

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

-Fewer incidents of bullying and inappropriate behavior reported to staff/school administration
-Fewer progressive discipline reports pertaining to bullying behavior
-More confidence and leadership skills evident in older students
-Fewer Suspensions due to bullying
-School Climate surveys indicate that the students feel safe at school
-School culture where differences are accepted and inclusion is demonstrated standard of acceptance

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	St. Vincent de Paul School is a safe, inclusive, and healthy learning and teaching environment that supports academic achievement and emotional well being for all students.
Goal #2	Students will be inclusive for all in their play in the school yard.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

INDIVIDUAL (victim and/or bully)
-Teacher intervention (dialogue with the student(s), dialogue with the parent(s), consequences; as withholding of privileges, removal from peers, think paper
-Guidance counsellor intervention
-Social Work intervention to provide counselling, communication skills instruction, assertiveness training, stress management, problem solving, anger management, conflict management and where appropriate recommendation for more intensive intervention offered by the Board and/or Outside Agencies
-Intervention by the School Based Support Team to assist staff with the development of strategies to meet the social emotional needs of the student, and where appropriate make recommendations for further intervention by Outside Agencies
-Where appropriate intervention through the PAST program to provide/offer social skill games
-Staff in-service with regard to meeting the needs and supporting students who are on the Autism Spectrum
-In-service/articles for staff provided by the Psychology department with regard to mental health
CLASSROOM
-Presentations to provide intervention for the needs of the students in the class as a group as identified by the teacher
-Meditation, mindfulness, etc. instruction and practice

YARD
-Increased supervision in the yard, increased supervision 8:45am - 9:00am, 3:30pm - 3:45pm
-Reduction of the number of students in the yard during lunch through the introduction of lunch time programs for students

Responsibility

-Teachers, Support Staff, Principal, Students, Administration, Parents
-Safe Schools Team
-Guidance, Social Worker, SBST team, PAST team
-Police, and other outside agencies

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

-Resources "bin" provided by the Safe Schools Department for classroom use in developing lessons pertaining to bullying
-Agenda,outlining behavior expectations and the school code of conduct, and providing an ongoing form of communication with the parents
-School and Board Staff
-Outside Agencies
-Individual Education Plan
-Safety Plan for high needs students
-Learning Skills and Work Habits segment of the progress report with a specific focus on collaboration and self regulation

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

-The Safe School Climate Survey completed by the Gr.6 and Gr.8 students are positive with regard to their perception of the climate at school
-Number of incidents being reported is reduced
-Number of suspensions pertaining to bullying is reduced

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	St. Vincent de Paul School is a safe, inclusive, and healthy learning and teaching environment that supports academic achievement and emotional well being for all students.
Goal #3	Students to seek assistance from school staff after unsuccessful efforts to solve disputes themselves.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

Continue with the 3 R' s Code of Behaviour:
1. Respect for self and others.
2. Respect for property.
3. Responsibility for own actions.

-Agreement to abide by the School Code, signed by all students
-Monthly Celebration of Learning Assemblies that encourage a positive learning environment and acknowledgement of individual student dedication to academics and Catholic Virtues (awards for academic achievement, and virtue of the month)
-Recognition of Gr. 8 student achievement through the honour roll
-Prayers, Religion & Family life to instill values in our school community
-Monthly School Masses
-Classroom visits by Father Martin and Father Michael
-Reconciliation

Responsibility

-Classroom Teachers, Principal and Administration
-Support Staff, Special Education teachers, Librarian, Guidance Counselor, Social Worker
-Safe School Team
-St Vincent De Paul Catholic Church

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

-School Code of Conduct
-The Board offered professional development for teachers
-Sharing of best practices
-Police Department

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

-A culture of empathy permeates the school
-Annual School survey results for gr. 6 & 8 students demonstrates that a higher percentage of students feel safe at school
-Reduction in the number of incidents being reported

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	St. Vincent de Paul School utilizes a continuum of interventions, supports, and consequences that foster a safe, caring, and nurturing learning environment.
Goal #1	For students to behave in a positive manner: 1. Respect for self and others. 2. Respect for property. 3. Responsibility for own actions.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

-Review and Implement the School Code of Conduct
-Religious instruction - Catholic Graduate Expectations, Virtues of the Month
-Positive behaviour/manners modelled by school leaders (Think Papers)
-Celebration of Monthly Virtue Awards
-Adult direction and re-direction where necessary
-Consequences for inappropriate behavior (Think Papers, build empathy, progressive discipline)
-Goal setting and class instruction with regard to collaboration and self-regulation and reported through the progress report
-More intensive support for students that are experiencing difficulty through guidance and social work
-Communication with Home (including "sunshine calls")
-Co-created class rules
-Positive reinforcement for expected behaviour

Responsibility

-Principal
-All teaching and non-teaching Staff
-Safe School Team
-St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
-Parents
-Guidance, Social Worker

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

-School Resources
-Safe School Code of Conduct
-Guidance Counsellor
-Social Worker
-Incident Reporting form
-TCDSB Safe School Team
-Police Liason

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

-Reduction in the number of reported incidents and suspensions
-Positive climate
-Student survey
-Check-in with class about their behavioural progress

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	St. Vincent de Paul School utilizes a continuum of interventions, supports, and consequences that foster a safe, caring, and nurturing learning environment.
Goal #2	Effective intervention and instruction (individual, group, class)

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

-Celebration of Learning Assemblies
-Presentations by outside professionals (e.g., Cyber bullying)
-Progressive Discipline (Think paper, apology letter, reconciliation activity etc.)
-Teacher discussion & workshops provided by Safe Schools
-Guidance and Social Work Intervention
-Please also note the strategies highlighted under the bullying prevention Goal #2

Responsibility

-All staff, Principal
-Guidance, Social Worker
-Safe Schools Team
-School Based Support Team
-Outside Agencies

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

-TCDSB website for Progressive Discipline
-TCDSB website for Virtue of the Month
-Police Protocol

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

-Reduction in incident reports and suspensions

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	St. Vincent de Paul School utilizes a continuum of interventions, supports, and consequences that foster a safe, caring, and nurturing learning environment.
Goal #3	Enhanced parental engagement and support.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

-Involvement in school events Dance-A-Thon, Christmas Jubilee, Picnic, Catholic Parent Council etc.
-Communication via a weekly Newsletter through Parent Connect, Google Classroom and teacher specific medium
-Presentations to the parent community on subjects identified by the Parent Council as a point of interest
-Parent survey created by the parent council
-Communication through CSPC (parent run initiatives)
-Social Work involvement as required
-Strong student participation in school community events
-Student Council

Responsibility

-Principal

-All school staff

-CSPC

-OAPCE Rep

-CPIC Rep

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

-Regular communication with parents

-CSPC (Parent Connect)

-Community building events

-Presenters

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

-Active CSPC involvement

-Staff and parent collaborative school functions

-Improved attendance at information evenings, curriculum night etc.

-Increase in the number of parents volunteering

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. Vincent de Paul School promotes a positive school climate where all members of our school community feel safe, comfortable and accepted.
Goal #1	To nurture and develop positive leadership skills of students, staff and parents through opportunities embedded in school life.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

-Agendas contain the school code of conduct, parents are encouraged to review the code of conduct and other pertinent information with their children
-Code of conduct shared in agenda
-Bullying intervention/counselling by Social Worker and/or Guidance Counsellor
-Nurture positive leadership skills by supporting local community agencies through the leading of initiatives for the school as; We Scare Hunger, Christmas Giving Baskets Terry Fox Run, etc
-Virtue of the month presentations foster student leadership, respect and appreciation for the achievement of peers
-Opportunities for student leadership and mentoring
-School wide Lenten Celebration
-An active and engaged parent council that works on building community by organizing events as: Dance-A-Thon, Picnic, Parent Social, Christmas Market, Movie Nights, etc.
-Principal to facilitate schoolwide presentations on Bullying, Indigenous, Mental Health

Responsibility

-Parent Council Members
-Teacher, Principal and Support Staff
-Members of the Safe Schools and Accepting team
-Student Council

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

-Community liaison partner
-Board initiated opportunities for staff and Parent Council members
-Various modes of communication with the parent community

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

On-going observation of a peaceful school climate evidenced by
-Results of school climate survey
-Students demonstrate an overall improvement in positive behaviour(s)
-Students demonstrate an increase in self-esteem and self-image
-Observe an increase in student engagement through safe, healthy, and inclusive recess
-Observe Junior and Intermediate students in leadership roles
-Reduction in number of incidents being reported

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	St. Vincent de Paul School promotes a positive school climate where all members of our school community feel safe, comfortable and accepted.
Goal #2	Increase Student Engagement

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

-Divisional Celebration of Learning Assemblies
-Virtue of the Month Certificate to support character education
-Academic Achievement and Academic Effort Certificates
-Honour Roll for the Intermediate students
-Student Council Members having regular and ongoing responsibilities (need a teacher/leader)
-Daily prayers and readings on the PA and independently in the classroom
-Birthday announcements
-Sports teams, W5H and concerts
-Office Monitors
-School Spirit Days
-First Communion / Confirmation Luncheons
-Intermediate student involvement with Parent Council organized events as; Christmas Market
-Intermediate student hosting of the Christmas Bazaar
-Continue to review and develop opportunities for student directed learning in the class (learning goals, success criteria, inquiry based learning)

Responsibility

-Principal, Administration
-Safe Schools Team
-Student Council
-Staff
-CSPC

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

-Board wide resources (Language Resource Staff for Teacher Professional Development
-Guidance Councillor
-Social Worker

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

-Result of School Climate Survey
-Peaceful School Climate
-Improved Academic Standing with higher achievements in student standardized testing
-Decrease in absences and lates
-Decrease in inappropriate behavior
-More confidence and leadership skills evident in older students

School Vision	St. Vincent de Paul School promotes a positive school climate where all members of our school community feel safe, comfortable and accepted.
Goal #3	Parents as partners.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

-Monthly newsletter through Parent Connect - new School friendly website

-Communication through agenda, phone or internet as determined by the teacher

-Parent Teacher Interviews

-Curriculum Night / Extended French Information Night

-Parents invited to attend school presentations

-Community building events organized by the members of the Parent Council and staff

-School Fundraisers

-CSPC initiatives

Responsibility

-Principal

-Staff

-Students

-CSPC

-Parents

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

-Newsletters

-CSPC Meetings

-Portal - School Messenger

-Google Classroom

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

-Positive Climate

-Positive School-Parent Partnerships

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL

Safe Schools Plan

School Vision	St. Vincent de Paul School promotes a positive school climate where all members of our school community feel safe, comfortable and accepted.
Goal **#SVP 1**	Increase Student Engagement and Student Voice.

Initiatives/Strategies/Practices

- Introduce Virtue of the Month to support character education
- Introduce Virtue of the Month and Student of the Month Divisional Assemblies - done virtually as a school body
- Student Council Members having regular and ongoing responsibilities
- Daily prayers and readings on the PA and independently in the classroom
- Birthday announcements
- Sports team, lunch programs and Concerts
- Dance Ed for the whole school
- Office Monitors
- School Spirit Days
- African Canadian History Month Awareness Activities
- Christmas Fair
- Community Picnic in June
- First Communion / Confirmation
- Implement instructional strategies that foster student engagement as enquiry based learning, higher order thinking skills tasks, statement of learning goals, co-created success criteria, descriptive feedback, and self direction. For more details please refer to the School Improvement and Equity Plan.

Responsibility

Principal
Staff
Students

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

Language Resource Staff for Teacher Professional Development
Guidance Councilor
Social Worker

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

- Result of School Climate
- Survey for Gr. 6 & 8
- Peaceful School Climate
- Overall positive increase in student behavior
- Higher achievement in student standardized testing
- More confidence and leadership skills evident in older students.

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

- Implementation of New Medical Procedure Protocol
- Distribute New Emergency and Crisis Response Plan Poster to each classroom
- Review lock down procedure, implement and review
- Practice four lock down drills a year with one occurring during non-structured time
- Place Emergency Lockdown Procedures in Teacher's supply plan
- Doors to classrooms should be in a locked position at all times to allow for a quick response in the event of emergency
- Extra keys made for supply teachers
- All staff given evacuation plan with phone numbers
- Review fire drill procedures
- Review bomb threat procedures
- Sign-in & Visitor Pass procedures

Responsibility

-Safe School Action Team
-Principal, Administrators
-Teachers
-Police Partners
-Fire Department

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

-TCDSB Threats to School Safety Response Procedures
-Police Community Liaison Partner and 11 Division

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

-Positive Assessment of Lockdown Drill
-Emergency Procedure Poster is visible in each classroom
-All students and teachers are familiar and follow emergency lockdown procedures, and practiced by each classroom teacher throughout the school year
-Invite school Police Liaison to Lockdown Drills
-Invite Fire Captain with fire fighters to attend and witness fire drills