

Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment

Notice to our students and their parents/guardians/caregivers

At Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools our approach to student discipline and behaviour is guided by and reflected in our mission to provide a welcoming community where we nurture faith, encourage excellence in learning and inspire students to serve others, making the world a better place.

In our school division, we draw inspiration and strength from the gospel of Jesus Christ. Parents, students, and staff work together to ensure that learning takes place in safe, positive environments that reflect the faith dimension of Catholic Education. We believe all interactions involving a student with problem behaviour must respect the dignity of all and reflect justice with love and focus on forgiveness.

As part of our Safe Positive Schools strategy it is important for you to know that we will respond to student behaviours that pose a potential risk to the health and well-being of other students, staff and members of the community. As a member of the Community Threat Assessment and Support Protocol (CTASP), Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools will work in collaboration with many community partners to provide necessary supports and interventions in order to prevent and reduce the potential for school violence. One action that may be taken is the preparation of a “Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment” report. More information about this document and its purpose is found below. The goal is to promote the safety of all members of our community. Violence prevention in our schools, neighbourhoods and greater community is everyone’s responsibility.

What behaviours warrant a “Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment” to be initiated?

A Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment will be initiated for behaviours including:

- serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill;
- verbal/written threats to harm or kill others (“clear, direct and plausible”);
- online threats to harm or kill others;
- possession of weapons (including replicas);
- bomb threats (making and /or detonating explosive devices);
- fire setting;
- sexual intimidation or assault; and
- gang-related intimidation and violence.

What is a threat?

- An expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something.
- May be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet, or made by gesture.

Duty to Report:

To keep our school communities safe and positive, staff, parents/guardians, students and community members must report all threat-related behaviours to the school principal or vice-principal.

Duty to Respond:

Threats must be taken seriously, investigated, and must include an appropriate response. Our goal is to respond to threats quickly and in a professional manner, so that we can maintain a safe, positive learning environment for all.

Each school has a multi-disciplinary Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment Team. The team includes the school principal, vice-principal, school counsellor(s), school resource officer (police) and superintendent/ division office support. It may also include community resources from the Ministry of Social Services, RCMP, Justice, Mental Health and other agencies as needed.

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools is pleased to offer this commitment and level of support to our school communities and we appreciate the community partners who are working with us.

It is important for all parties to engage in the Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment process.

If for some reason there is reluctance to participate in the process (by the threat maker or parent/guardians) the threat assessment process may continue in order to ensure a safe environment for all and to see an intervention/support plan put in place for the threat maker.

What is the purpose of a Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment?

- To ensure the safety of students, staff, parents/guardians and others;
- To ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat;
- To begin to understand the factors that contribute to the threat maker's behaviour;
- To be proactive in developing an intervention and support plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker; and
- To promote the emotional and physical safety of all.

What happens in a Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment?

- All threat-making behaviour(s) by a student(s) is reported to the principal/vice-principal who activates the Violence Threat/Risk Assessment protocol;
- Interviews are held with the student(s), the threat maker, parents/guardian(s), and staff;
- An investigation determines the level of risk and directs an appropriate response to the incident; and
- Intervention plans are developed and monitored.