



GREATER SASKATOON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS Safe Positive Schools - Student Violence

ASSESSMENT OF RISK TO OTHERS (ARTO) NOTICE TO OUR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS

The approach to student discipline in Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools is guided 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.

We love because He first loved us.

– 1 John 4:19

Saskatoon Catholic Schools draw inspiration and strength from the gospel of Jesus Christ. Parents, students, and staff work together to ensure that learning takes place in a safe, positive environment in which all behaviours reflects the religious dimension of Catholic Education. Saskatoon Catholic Schools believe that all interventions on behalf of a student with problem behaviour must respect the dignity of the individual, 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 community. As a member of the Community Threat Assessment and Support Protocol, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools works in collaboration with many community partners to provide necessary supports and interventions in order to prevent and reduce the potential for school violence. The goal is to promote the safety of all members of our community. Violence prevention our schools, neighborhoods and greater community is all of our responsibility.

Rooted Growing Reaching Transforming

Student Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO)

Notice to our students and parents/guardians/caregivers

Fair Notice and Process

What behaviours warrant an Assessment of Risk to Others to be initiated?

- An ARTO 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 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 ARTO 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 Assessment of Risk to Others process.

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

The model presented in this document reflects the thinking and work of J. Kevin Cameron, Director of the Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response.

What is the purpose of an Assessment of Risk to Others?

- 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 an Assessment of Risk to Others?

- All threat making behaviour(s) by a student(s) is reported to the principal/vice principal who activates the ARTO 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.

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