



Saskatoon
Public
Schools



Working Together for Safe Schools

Saskatoon schools have well developed partnerships in our community. We work closely with the Saskatoon Police Service, the Saskatoon Fire Department and the City of Saskatoon Emergency Measures Organization to help ensure that our schools are safe places to be. With their help we have developed, and regularly review, our safety plans. These plans enable our staff to effectively and efficiently respond to any emergency events that may arise in our schools.

Parents/guardians/caregivers also play a role in working with all partners in keeping our students safe. This resource provides you with information on school safety planning.

School Safety Plans

Safety plans help us prepare and respond to emergency events. That is why we prepare safety plans and why we practice emergency drills in our schools. All schools have developed safety plans for many different scenarios. In each instance the situation is assessed, a level of response is identified, and action is taken. These actions will depend on the specific incident. For example, one or more schools may evacuate, lockdown, or initiate a shelter in place response, according to the nature of the event.

Our school staff works directly with the Saskatoon Police Service and the Saskatoon Fire Department who provide us with advice on the best way to respond to a potential or actual event. They are the experts.

Key objectives in all event responses are to:

- ☐ Make sure everyone is safe
- ☐ Make sure schools have the supports they need
- ☐ Ensure timely and accurate communication during and after the incident
- ☐ Bring the incident to a prompt and safe solution
- ☐ Ensure timely continuation of classes
- ☐ Ensure appropriate debriefing and follow-up

Flexibility is a key component of each school's plan and of school division-wide preparations. If the Saskatoon Police Service officers and/or Saskatoon Fire Department are involved in the emergency, school staff members follow their instructions.

Evacuation

Each school has determined an alternate safe location in the event of an evacuation. Parents, guardians and caregivers are made aware of this safe location through school newsletters and handbooks. Parents/guardians/caregivers are contacted by the school staff in the event of an evacuation. They are informed if students will be evacuated to a safe location or if they are expected to come to the school to pick up their child(ren).

Cancellation of Classes Due to Severe Weather

In cases of severe weather, there may be instances where schools cancel classes for the entire day or implement emergency dismissal procedures. Closing schools is a rare occurrence. If classes are cancelled a staff member will always be in the building in case a student shows up at the school.

Each school principal is responsible for developing a response plan for the emergency dismissal of students and ensuring that all parents/guardians/caregivers are aware of the plan. Many factors are taken into consideration when deciding to cancel classes, but the safety of students and staff is the number one consideration.



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GREATER
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Shelter in Place

During a shelter in place, staff and students remain in the school. Staff members secure the school including windows and ventilation system. No one is allowed to enter or leave the building until the appropriate public safety agencies declare it safe to do so. A shelter in place may occur during severe weather or if there is a hazardous material spill in the neighbourhood.

Hold and Secure and Lockdown

An emergency may prevent the safe evacuation of a school and require a specific response to protect students and staff in the building. In this instance, staff institute a school lockdown or a hold and secure, depending on the threat.

- A hold and secure is used when there is a potential threat near the school that requires an enhanced level of safety. School exterior doors are locked to ensure that no individuals leave or enter the building. Individuals are only allowed to exit and enter via the front door of the school with approval of school administration.
- A school lockdown alerts staff and students that an imminent threat exists inside or just outside the school. School personnel lock classroom doors and windows. Students and staff move away from doors and windows and remain in their classrooms until directed by emergency personnel that it is safe to leave. In a lockdown situation all cell phones are powered down and collected by school staff.

Our school divisions also have plans in place to address other disruptive events including power outages, water main breaks and severe weather.

Ways that parents/guardians/caregivers can help with an emergency

- ☐ Be familiar with your school's safety plan and discuss the plan with members of your family.
- ☐ Provide current emergency contact names and phone number at the beginning of each school year. Inform the school of any changes to emergency contact information.
- ☐ Do not call the school or your child(ren) on their cell phones in an emergency situation.
- ☐ Do not come to the school site during an emergency unless instructed to do so. It may not be safe and your presence may complicate the emergency response.

In emergency situations parents/guardians/caregivers are kept informed by school communication systems.

If you have any questions about what is in the resource or would like more information on your school's safety plan, please contact the principal at your school.

A copy of this resource is also available at:

- Conseil des écoles fransaskoises <https://ecolefrancophone.com/en/>
- Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools: www.gscs.ca
- Saskatoon Public Schools: www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca
- Saskatoon Fire Department: www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/fire-emergency
- Saskatoon Police Service: www.saskatoonpoliceservice.ca

Form M Fair Notice –Community Threat Assessment and Support Protocol

This pamphlet should be included in fall newsletters on an annual basis.



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.

For further information contact: Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools:
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