

SAFE POSITIVE SCHOOLS

Working together to create safe positive school communities for everyone

Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God.

Matthew 9

Students are more likely to attend and achieve at school if they feel accepted, respected and valued. Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS) promote positive relationships between and amongst students, staff and families through a wide variety of strategies including working directly with community partners and families. GSCS believe that all students and staff have the right to a safe, caring, and respectful school environment, free from bullying behaviour.

Definition of bullying:

In 2013, the Government of Saskatchewan conducted anti-bullying consultations throughout the province. A result of these consultations was the following definition of bullying which Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools has adopted and have specific division processes and strategies to address student bullying and harassment.

Bullying is a relationship issue where one person or group repeatedly uses power and aggression to control or intentionally hurt, harm, or intimidate another person or group. It is often based on another person's appearance, abilities, culture, race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity. Bullying can take many forms: physical, emotional, verbal, psychological or social. It can occur in person or through electronic communication.

Saskatchewan's Action Plan to Address Bullying and Cyberbullying November 2013

What are schools doing to prevent and respond to reported bullying?

Bullying is a serious issue and is not acceptable at school, at a school-related activity, online (cyber-bullying) or in other circumstances that will have an impact on the school climate.

Our responses include division and school based strategies. These include:

1. Division Anti-bullying Policy and Division Code of Conduct
2. School Code of Conduct
3. Social skills instruction
4. Collaborating with community partner expertise including the Restorative Action Program in our high schools (RAP), the Bully Prevention Network , Red Cross RespectEd program, School Resource Officers – Saskatoon Police Services, RCMP, school counsellors

What can I do as a parent/guardian or community member to prevent and respond to reported bullying at a school?

We rely on all our community members to assist us in reporting incidents of bullying. If you have concerns about possible bullying behaviours at your child's school we ask that you **contact a school staff member immediately** and set up an appointment to meet. The school will work with you in creating a plan to respond to the bullying or harassment. Other community partners may be invited to assist the school staff in developing the plan.

What if bullying is occurring outside the school?

Bullying and harassment occurs during the summer months and after school hours. The prevalent use of social media by our young people has increased cyber bullying which generally occurs outside school hours. Make sure you know how your child is using the internet, social media platforms, or his /her phone to interact with others. You reserve the right as a parent to look at the content of your child's devices if you have safety concerns.

Other Reporting Options for youth and adults to report bullying include:

<http://iamstronger.ca> – Saskatchewan online report that is anonymous and is forwarded to either your school division representatives or another appropriate agency such as your local police service.

www.reportabully.ca – The Association of Crime Stoppers Programs of Saskatchewan has developed a format to report by phone or by texting.

Type: www.reportabully.ca

Text: "BULLYTIP" followed by your message to CRIMES (274637)

Talk: 1.800.222.TIPS (8477)

Each bullying tip will be reviewed by a police officer to determine if there is a criminal element. To the information provided and will conduct an investigation accordingly. If there is no criminal element to the tip and a school is named the information will be shared with the designated contact for the school to be addressed.