



Student Threat/Violence Risk Assessment

Fair Notice & Process

The Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board and Community Partners are committed to making our schools safe for students and staff. As a result the Board will respond to all student behaviours that pose a potential risk to other students, staff and members of the community. It is hoped that support for early intervention measures by our school Board and community partners will prevent school violence. There are many initiatives in place to support our schools as safe places for students to learn.

One important initiative is the Student Threat/Violence Risk Assessment protocol and the training of Board administrators and associated staff in Threat and Risk Assessment. School teams work to assess potentially high risk student behaviour and evaluate the level of risk to others and the student exhibiting the behaviour. This training and response plan was developed by Kevin Cameron, Director of the Canadian Centre for Threat and Risk Assessment.

The effective implementation of the protocol will support collaborative planning to prevent traumatic events. In addition the timely sharing of information about students at risk for violence towards self and/or others will ensure that supportive plans are put in place to enhance safety.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A STUDENT THREAT/VIOLENCE RISK ASSESSMENT?

- ❖ To ensure the safety of students, staff and parents.
- ❖ To understand, based on the data gathered, the factors that contribute to the threat maker's behaviour.
- ❖ To develop an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker and others.

WHAT BEHAVIOURS INITIATE A STUDENT THREAT/VIOLENCE RISK ASSESSMENT?

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet or made by gesture. Threats must be taken seriously, investigated and responded to.

A student threat/violence assessment will be initiated when behaviours include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ Serious violence with the intent to kill or harm
- ❖ Verbal/written threats to kill others (clear, direct and plausible)
- ❖ Internet website/MSN threats to kill others
- ❖ Possession of weapons, including replicas
- ❖ Bomb threats (making and/or detonating explosive devices)

- ❖ Fire setting
- ❖ Sexual intimidation or assault
- ❖ Gang related intimidation and violence

A Threat/Risk Assessment may be initiated because of the context of an incident or worrisome behaviour.

WHAT IS A THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAM?

Each school has a multi-disciplinary Threat Assessment Response Team. The Threat Assessment Response team includes multidisciplinary team members or personnel. The team may include Administrators, School Board Psychologist, Guidance Counselors, Social Worker, school resource police officer and additional people that may include other pertinent professionals and/or community resources. Without delay the response team will share and review student information and the details of the event in order to collaborate using a broad range of expertise. This collaborative process will respect the individual's rights to privacy and the safety of all.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

All threat making behaviours are reported to school administration who may activate the protocol. A team is formed and people are assigned "data gathering" sources. Information may be obtained from multiple sources which include:

- ❖ teachers, students, targets, threat makers, parents/caregivers
- ❖ current and previous school records
- ❖ law enforcement
- ❖ support groups and agencies
- ❖ online sites – Facebook, etc.
- ❖ locker and backpack search, bedroom search

Data collected is shared and a determination is made of low, medium, or high risk. An intervention plan is developed to reduce risk of violence.

DUTY TO REPORT

In order to keep our school communities safe, the Board expects anyone in a school community having knowledge of high-risk student behaviour or having reasonable grounds to believe there is a potential for high-risk or violent behaviour to promptly report the information to the school principal or designates. All Board policies, procedures and protocols align the Ministry of Education's safe schools initiatives and other appropriate legislation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your school principal.

