

- Can I refuse to be a part of the Student Threat Management process?

It is important for all parties to engage in the process. However, if for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process, by the threat maker or parent/guardian, the threat management process may continue in order to ensure a safe and caring learning environment.

The goal of caring and safe school strategy is to encourage school practices that model and reinforce socially responsible and respectful behaviours so that learning and teaching can take place in a safe and caring environment. (Mather, 2001)

Participating in and contributing to a safe, respectful and positive learning environment is both the right and responsibility of children and youth, their parents/caregivers, school personnel and community members. Schools, acting in partnership with their communities, can create and maintain these environments that foster a sense of belonging, enhance the joy of learning, honour diversity and promote respectful, responsible and caring relationships. (Positive Learning Environment in Schools, 2000, p.2)

Quotes found in the Ministry Document entitled, “Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario”, September 2010

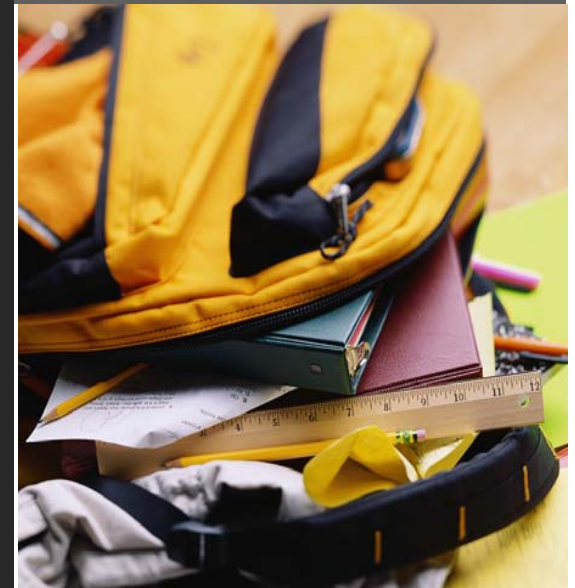
The Mission of the York Catholic District School Board

We are a Catholic Learning Community of collaborative partners, called to serve one another by being committed to and accountable for quality learning by all with Jesus as our inspiration.



Student Threat Management

Fair Notice and Process



York Catholic District School Board is committed to creating and maintaining school environments in which students, staff, parents and others feel safe. Schools cannot ignore any threat of violence.

Student Threat Management: Fair Notice and Process



Behaviours that initiate Student Threat Management

Student Threat Management will be initiated when behaviours include, but are not limited to: serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill, verbal/written threats to harm/kill others, Internet website/MSN threats to harm/kill others, possession of weapons (including replicas), bomb threats and fire setting.

Duty to Report

To keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents, students, and community members must report all threat related behaviours.

Recognizing a Threat

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.

School Threat Management Team

A Student Threat Management Team is composed of multi-disciplinary team members or personnel. It may include Administrators, Behaviour Resource staff, School Psychologists, Guidance Counselors, and Police and other pertinent professionals.

At times, outside agencies may be included.

The purpose of Student Threat Management

Student Threat Management ensures:

- the safety of students, staff, parents and others.
- an understanding of the context of the threat.
- an understanding of the factors that contribute to the threat makers' behaviour.
- the development of an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker.
- promotes the emotional and physical safety of all.

Student Threat Management

The Process:

All threat making behaviours by a student(s) shall be reported to the principal who will activate the protocol for the initial response.

Once the team has been activated, interviews may be held with the student(s), the threat maker, parents and pertinent staff to determine the level of risk and develop an appropriate response to the incident.

Intervention plans will be developed and shared with parents, staff and the student(s) as required.