

## WHAT CAN YOU AS A PARENT OR GUARDIAN EXPECT?

Parent participation in this process is key to assisting with understanding your child. You can expect:

- An open and honest process.
- We will share safety concerns about your child with you.
- We will arrange a meeting with members of the threat/risk assessment team following a threat or violent incident. The information you share with us will help determine the overall safety plan for the student and the school community.
- We will ask for your consent to involve key people in the process and the outcome.
- We will be thorough in our assessment and do what is in the best interest and safety for all.

As the heart of this community, we are committed to creating conditions that lead to success for each, and a place for all. This process is supported through our Board's protocols, and is in alignment with the *Safe Schools Act*.

## OUR MISSION

*As disciples of Christ, we educate and nurture hope in all learners to realize their full potential to transform God's world.*

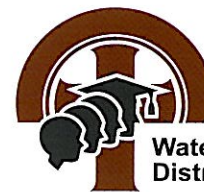
Principals at each school as well as support staff throughout our system at the Waterloo Catholic District School Board have been provided with specialized training through the *Canadian Centre for Threat and Risk Assessment* under the direction of Kevin Cameron.

This training has occurred in collaboration with our colleagues from the Waterloo Region District School Board, *The Waterloo Regional Police, Youth Probation Services, Family and Children's Services, KidsLink, Lutherwood, Grand River Hospital, Canadian Mental Health Association, Kinbridge, Ray of Hope, Langs Farm Village Association, Community Justice Initiatives, Front Door, and the John Howard Society.*

For any further information about this process or about your child's safety, contact your school Principal.



[www.wcdsb.ca](http://www.wcdsb.ca)



Waterloo Catholic  
District School Board

## VIOLENCE THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT

### FAIR NOTICE & PROCESS

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board supports every person's right to feel safe. We have systems and programs in place in our schools that reinforce this community of safety.

This pamphlet outlines the steps our schools will take in partnership with our community in response to violence, threats and risk to safety in our school communities.

**Committed to safety in our schools and communities**





## WHAT IS A THREAT?

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act violently against someone or something. This threat may be verbal, written, drawn, posted via the Internet/social media, or made by gesture.

All threats made that have the potential to harm our staff, students and our community will be reported to the School Administrator and to the Police. To err on the side of safety, all threats will be taken seriously.

## WHAT BEHAVIOURS WILL INITIATE A VIOLENCE THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT?

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

- Threats to harm or injure or kill others
- Serious acts of violence
- Bomb threats
- Fire setting
- Sexual assault, intimidation
- Gang related intimidation and violence
- Possession of weapons, including replicas

## WHAT IS A VIOLENCE THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT?

Members of a specially trained team along with community partners who are involved with a student who has made a threat (threat maker) and his/her family come together to review information that assists in determining a student's degree of risk to the school community.

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS ASSESSMENT?

The threat risk assessment team consists of at least 3 individuals:

- School Administrator
- Police Officer (typically the school resource officer)
- School Social Worker or psychologist
- Guidance Counselor and/or teaching staff
- Other community individuals who have knowledge of the threat maker

We know that each person has information about a student's needs that other people might not have. This process brings all of those people together to ensure the safety of all students, staff and our communities. Based on data gathered, the team will seek to understand the factors that contribute to the threat maker's behaviour. The team's role is also to develop an intervention plan that addresses the physical and emotional safety of the threat maker and the school community.



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## WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

1. All threat making behaviours by a student or students must be reported to the Principal or designate. Immediately following a threat or violent incident, the school administrator will gather a team to collect information, and work in conjunction with the Police.

Information may be gathered from:

- The threat maker
- Teachers, victims, witnesses, parents, law enforcement
- Locker, backpack and any relevant sources
- Current and previous school records
- On-line sites including Facebook etc.
- Community agencies and other individuals who have knowledge of the student(s) involved

2. Once the information has been collected, the threat assessment team will:

- Review the information
- Recommend the level of risk that the threat maker poses based on the information that is known
- Develop an appropriate plan to reduce the potential for violence
- Share the plan with the threat maker and his/her family