



VIOLENCE PREVENTION POLICY

Principles:

- The school community is to be seen as a society where the individual, both student and adult, can be free from incidents of a violent nature, threats, harassment or intimidation. If the school is to foster a climate of co-operation and mutual benefit, allowing the individual the fullest possible opportunities, then it is also imperative that the school community be a physically and emotionally safe place.
- Media portraying inappropriate violence, or otherwise denigrating specific groups or individuals, are prohibited on school grounds unless justified for educational reasons. Such media may include print material, TV, music, and other audio or video material.
- The school recognizes a differentiated approach to student discipline which is appropriate to age and maturity.
- The school believes that students require structured guidelines for behaviour.
- The school believes that students should be provided with opportunities to assume responsibility and be able to learn from their mistakes.
- Communication between the school, parents and students is critical to effectively deal with issues relating to student conduct.
- An accurate record system must be maintained by the school.

Process:

FIGHTING

- Any incident of a violent nature which involves the willful attempt to physically harm another person will lead to an immediate suspension. Within three school days, the student, together with a parent or adult advocate, will meet with the school's Violence Prevention Advisory Committee.
- A copy of the policy will be appended to the suspension letter.
- The meeting will be initiated by the parent or adult advocate of the student.
- The Violence Prevention Advisory Committee will determine conditions for return to the school which may include an extension of the suspension.
- The Violence Prevention Advisory Committee will consist of an administrator, a counsellor, two teacher representatives, to include a classroom teacher and a member of Support Services.
- The meeting will open with a report of the incident by the administrator involved.
- The student, with the assistance of an adult advocate, will be expected to make a verbal presentation to support his/her re-admission to the school.

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INDIRECT OR SECONDARY INVOLVEMENT IN VIOLENCE

- Actively inciting, promoting, encouraging or supporting violence is considered a threat to the safety and well-being of the school community. In addition, passive participation as audience/spectator is seen as contributing to a violent situation.
- Any student identified as contributing to violence, either by active encouragement or passive participation as a spectator may be asked to report to the office. An administrator may suspend, refer to the Violence Prevention Advisory Committee or issue a warning.
- The possession of an item that might be potentially dangerous, threatening or intimidating is prohibited on school premises and may be confiscated and turned into the RCMP.

HARASSMENT, ABUSE AND THREATS

Harassing, abusive or threatening behaviour will be treated as an attempt to harm.

- Harassment is behaviour, including comments and/or conduct, which is insulting, intimidating, humiliating, hurtful, malicious, degrading or otherwise offensive to an individual or group of individuals.
- Abuse is behaviour, both verbal and non-verbal, in which the intent is to injure or damage or to express disapproval and condemnation.
- Threats are any behaviour which is seen by the person threatened as intimidating or expressing an intention to injure, harm or damage.

Incidents of a violent nature in which a student is abusive, threatening or harassing to another person will lead to the following action:

- First or minor offence: Immediate suspension to an administrator for documentations and clarification of the school's Violence Prevention Policy. A copy of the documentation and policy will be forwarded to the parents or guardian. Restitution may be required.
- Subsequent or major offence: Immediate suspension from school. A copy of the Violence Prevention Policy will be appended to the suspension letter.
- Procedures to follow are described under the Fighting Policy. violent activity, whether or not on school property or during school hours which involves or affects any member of the school community, is a potential threat to the school environment. Such behaviour will be taken into consideration when making assessments.