



# Anti-Bullying and Anti-Violence Plan

2020-2021

**School:** St. John Fisher Jr Elementary

**Goal:** To prevent and stop all forms of bullying and violence targeting a student, a teacher or any other staff member.

## **Definitions:**

**Bullying:** refers to any repeated direct or indirect behavior, comment, act, or gesture, whether deliberate or not, including in cyberspace, which occurs in a context where there is a power imbalance between the persons concerned and which causes distress and injuries, hurts, oppresses, intimidates or ostracizes.

**Violence:** refers to any intentional demonstration of verbal, written, physical, psychological or sexual force which causes distress and injures, hurts, or oppresses a person by attacking their psychological or physical integrity or well-being, or their rights or property.

**Governing Board approval: June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**

## **1. Analysis of the School's Situation:**

The St. John Fisher Jr Community pledges its support for the position of the Lester B. Pearson School Board's Safe and Caring Schools with respect to school safety and security. To that end, St. John Fisher Jr is committed to working towards eliminating all forms of bullying and violence in its community and to taking a regular measure of its school climate as it relates to these particular issues.

Proposed Actions:

- St. John Fisher Jr will commit to conducting the Staff Survey on Safe and Caring Schools with the support of the Student Services Department of the LBPSB.
- St. John Fisher Jr commits to having standard written reports on ISM to report incidents of violence or bullying.
- St. John Fisher Jr will include Transportation/Bus Reports related to acts of bullying or violence as part of its general snapshot of the school's situation.
- In-school and out-of-school suspensions and expulsions related to bullying and violent behaviour will be recorded and included in the snapshot.
- St. John Fisher Jr will keep a general tally of referrals for bullying or violent behaviours for reporting purposes and included in the snapshot.

## **2. Prevention Measures:**

The St. John Fisher Jr Community holds firm in the conviction that education and dialogue are the keys to changing attitudes towards issues of bullying and violence in schools. As educators, we are committed to providing opportunities for all members of our community to explore these issues, share experiences, move towards a greater understanding of their underlying causes and build the capacity to rise above them. We acknowledge that changing attitudes and culture is a long-term process. To that end, established measures such as those listed below should be considered as part of a general plan to promote a safe and caring school environment.

Proposed Actions:

- The St. John Fisher Jr Code of Conduct will be distributed to all school members and parents annually. The Code will be discussed and referenced in communications with the school community throughout the year so it remains an active document within the context of this plan.
- St. John Fisher Jr is committed to the goals and objectives of the LBPSB Digital Citizenship Project and its implication in this plan.
- St. John Fisher Jr will continue to implement programs related to anti-violence, anti-bullying over the course of each school year. These programs could include:

- Student activities throughout the year
  - Pink T-Shirt Day (anti-bullying month)
  - Staff professional development using Board and community consultants.
  - Peaceful Schools Initiatives
  - Community Initiatives
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- St. John Fisher Jr will commit to a minimum of one presentation annually by an outside organization (Play, team building activity, concert, etc.) which focuses on the Peaceful initiatives.
  - St. John Fisher Jr will engage in ongoing student/teacher/staff/Governing Board/parent communications on anti-bullying and peaceful initiatives.
  - St. John Fisher Jr commits itself to including messages regarding anti-violence and anti-bullying during student assemblies or rotating class visits over the course of the academic year.

### **3. Measures to Encourage Parental Collaboration:**

Parent collaboration and cooperation is critical to the success of any plan to eliminate bullying and violence in schools. The St. John Fisher Jr Community includes parents and, as a consequence, it is understood that parents are committed to the goals and objectives of this plan. It is critical that parents work with the school and engage in constructive dialogue on issues as they arise.

"The Lester B. Pearson School Board (also) believes that the school board's administrators, staff, parents, students and all those present in the school's environment have a responsibility to ensure that the right to be safe and secure is upheld."

Introduction, LBPSB Policy on Safe and Caring Schools, November 2008, p.4

#### Proposed Actions:

- St. John Fisher Jr shall review and distribute the LBPSB Anti-bullying, Anti-Violence Plan on an annual basis. A permanent link to this document will be maintained on the St. John Fisher Jr website.
- St. John Fisher Jr will commit itself to including references and share anti-bullying/anti-violence themes at the AGM and Curriculum Evening.
- St. John Fisher Jr will post information or links on its school website with relevant parent information regarding bullying, being a responsible bystander, internet safety, cyber-bullying, etc.
- St. John Fisher Jr will share anti-violence/anti-bullying and Peacekeeping strategies at parent meetings with classroom teachers and discuss current classroom practices with respect to this plan.
- St. John Fisher Jr commits to ongoing communication between school personnel, the parents of children who are being bullied and those who engage in bullying behaviours, until complete resolution of the problem is achieved. Additionally, St. John Fisher Jr commits to periodic follow-up communication with the victim of bullying, and his/her parents to ensure that the measures taken have been successful.

#### **4. Procedures for Reporting:**

All members of the St. John Fisher Jr Community are entitled to a safe, non-threatening and easily accessible process for reporting incidents of bullying or violent behavior regardless of whether they are victims, witnesses or a reporting party. It is understood that our process is designed to facilitate and encourage, not impede, the reporting of incidents.

#### Proposed Actions (Students):

- St. John Fisher Jr guarantees confidentiality for parties reporting incidents of bullying and/or violence. At the same time, we guarantee that the identified perpetrator is fully apprised of the details of the report made against him/her.
- Any St. John Fisher Jr student who witnesses an act of bullying or violence is responsible to tell a staff member at school, and an adult at home so as to allow those adults to follow-up with reporting as they see fit and necessary.
- St. John Fisher Jr confirms that any verbal report given to a staff member from a student must be documented and followed-up as needed.

Proposed Actions (Parents):

Members of the St. John Fisher Jr parent community who are made aware of a bullying situation or act of violence involving either their own child or another student of the school are obliged to contact the school Principal or classroom teacher. This contact and subsequent follow-up will be documented by St. John Fisher Jr principal.

Within two days of receiving the report, the reporting parent will be contacted by the school, to be assured that the situation is being investigated and that appropriate action(s) is being taken. Further details will be limited in order to insure confidentiality of parties involved.

St. John Fisher Jr invites parents to contact the school by:

- Direct phone call to school administrator.
- Letter detailing issue or incident addressed to school administrator or classroom teacher.
- Email
- Completion of a reporting form available from the school's main office.

#### **5. Actions to Be Taken When Observing a Bullying or Violent Act:**

All St. John Fisher Jr staff will be committed to a *zero indifference* policy with respect to acts of violence or bullying or reports of said acts. All are committed to responding and investigating any report which suggests that an incident of violence and/or bullying has taken place amongst our population. Furthermore, we are committed to considering all available facts in a timely and efficient manner.

Proposed Actions (Staff):

- All acts or reports will be investigated.
- A St. John Fisher Jr staff member who observes or is made aware of a possible act of bullying or violence must intervene to assess the situation and take action if deemed necessary.
- If the situation does not threaten the staff member who is a witness or who has been told of an incident, he/she must intervene. The student should be sent to the administration.
- The situation is reported to the administration. The principal will file the incident report.
- At the discretion of the school principal or his/her delegate, police intervention may be requested in the form of a 911 emergency call or a call for support from the school's Socio-Community Officer.

Proposed Actions (Students):

- Any St. John Fisher Jr student who witnesses an incident of violence or bullying should report the incident to a staff member.

Proposed Actions (Parents):

- Any member of the St. John Fisher Jr parent community who is witness to an act of bullying or violence is obliged to report that incident directly to the school administration.

*Note: All St. John Fisher Jr reports regarding incidents of violence and/or bullying must be forwarded to the appropriate Regional Director in cases where students are excluded from their regular course of studies as a consequence of their actions.*

## **6. Measures to Protect Confidentiality:**

As part of the investigative and follow-up processes, St. John Fisher Jr is committed to maintaining fair, accurate and confidential records of each reported incident of bullying or violence, regardless of the investigative outcome. These records will include specific details on the incidents in question, the steps taken by the school as a consequence of its investigation and indication of intended follow-up. St. John Fisher Jr is committed to keeping these records confidential and secure so as to protect all parties regardless of their role in the incident.

Proposed Actions:

- The St. John Fisher Jr anti-violence/anti-bullying plan will be reviewed annually and all staff members are reminded that every incident and the follow-up must be kept confidential.
- All reports of bullying and/or violence will be kept in a secure location under the supervision of the school principal or his/her delegate.
- The above named reports will be kept in a distinct file from the Cumulative File or Confidential File of an individual student.
- In all instances and procedures, sensitivity to the fears and feelings of all parties must be kept in mind.
- Members of the St. John Fisher Jr community agree that in all cases involving minor students, information shared should be on a need to know basis only.
- All parties acknowledge that St. John Fisher Jr personnel are not obliged to share information about another student with anyone but other staff and parents of that student.

## **7. Supervisory or Support Measure for Victims, Witness, and Perpetrator:**

All members of the St. John Fisher Jr community will be thorough in their treatment of reported cases of bullying or violence. They pledge to intervene in an appropriate manner, request the intervention of school administration and report the incident as per the process described in Section 6 of the plan.

#### Proposed Actions (Victim):

- A staff member who the victim is comfortable talking to, will determine the severity and frequency of the incident (s) through a discussion with the student.
- A staff member will conduct scheduled follow-up meetings with the student to ensure the bullying or violence has stopped and to provide support to the student. The degree of support offered at these meetings and their frequency shall depend upon the feedback from the victim regarding the current circumstance.
- In all cases, a determination will be made as to which members of the school staff must be made aware of the incident to ensure that the student is safe.
- Parents will be informed immediately following the incident and regularly updated until the situation is resolved. Referral for counselling through the LBPSB Student Services Department or through outside referral will be requested when deemed appropriate.
- The victim will be engaged in follow-up meetings with a staff member (teacher, principal, etc.) to ensure a sense of security.
- In all cases, to guarantee a sense of safety and security at school, victims can expect feedback in a timely manner.

#### Proposed Actions (Witness):

- Following the incident, an intervention may be held with any witnesses to discuss their role in the incident, debrief the event and determine more appropriate actions in the future.
- For students that are actively involved in encouraging the incident, consequences will be given.
- St. John Fisher Jr reserves the right to contact parents of witnesses.
- The witness could be engaged in follow-up meetings with a staff member (teacher, principal, etc.) to ensure a sense of security.
- As with a child that has been victimized, to guarantee a sense of safety and security at school, witnesses can expect feedback in a timely manner.

#### Proposed Actions (Perpetrator):

- Once an investigation has been completed and the incident is confirmed to be bullying and/or violence, the St. John Fisher Jr Principal or delegate will then meet with the perpetrator. The perpetrator is told of the report, discusses the incident and is given a consequence.
- The perpetrator's parents are contacted and informed of the incident and the consequences. The parents may be asked to come to school for a follow-up meeting.
- In cases where it is deemed necessary and appropriate, St. John Fisher Jr may refer the perpetrator and his/her parents to support services available to the school.
- St. John Fisher Jr is responsible to inform parents of their right to request assistance from the person designated by the School Board for referral to support services.
- It is expected that following any intervention, the perpetrator must report to principal or designate for follow-up discussion concerning the incident in question.

- Parents are requested to collaborate and be part of the plan which includes sanctions but also support as per Section 3 of this plan.
- In any circumstance, intervention with a perpetrator of an act of violence or bullying at St. John Fisher Jr may include a therapeutic intervention as a means of support. Such interventions may include:
  - Referral to an outside organization for support (CSSS)
  - Referral to REACH
  - Social Skills groups
  - Temporary or permanent placement in alternate class in school
  - Placement in in-school alternative program or referral to outreach system
  - FSSTT Type II Consultation
  - Intervention of CSSS Social Worker

## **8. Disciplinary Sanctions:**

The St. John Fisher Jr Community is committed to applying fair, consistent and appropriate sanctions in all cases where it has determined that acts of bullying or violence have taken place. These sanctions will always be applied with the understanding that the long-term objective is for rehabilitation and reintegration but that the safety of the whole will never be subordinate to that objective.

"Any disciplinary action must be fair, equitable and consistent with the general aims and goals of education. Whenever possible, the disciplinary action should allow for effective learning."  
LBPSB Policy on Safe and Caring Schools, Section 3, November 2008, p.9.

Proposed Actions:

- St. John Fisher Jr staff members may request that the perpetrator be sent to the office or other designated area while the initial investigation of the incident is being carried out.
- St. John Fisher Jr may request the supervision of the perpetrator during free time; i.e. must be shadowed by a supervisor during recess and at lunch time.
- Loss of school privileges, extra-curricular activities, attendance at outside events, etc
- Reflection time or detention of the perpetrator may be requested.
- Students may lose basic school privileges (e.g. recess) for a designated length of time.
- St. John Fisher Jr may implement a structured supervision plan of the perpetrator during free time where he/she is shadowed and monitored in his/her actions. This supervision plan will include a gradual release back of free time (e.g. 5 minutes each day) depending upon the perpetrator's conduct during the supervised periods.
- In-school suspension supervised by St. John Fisher Jr personnel.
- Referral for anger management program
- Community Service either inside or outside of the school setting.
- Out of school suspension with progressive re-entry.



- Out-of-school suspension with re-entry meetings with parents and students. A plan is developed for the student and agreed to by all. Teachers and staff implicated are informed of the plan.
- Recommendation to move the student to another school or to expel from the Board.
- Involvement of the Police.
- Cours à domicile / Home Study

**Clearly articulated progression of consequences:**

- 1st Offense: Meditation and Reflection take place (students & staff or principal) with communication to parents.
- 2nd Offense: The student loses basic school privileges with communication to parents.
- 3rd Offense: The student is suspended from school by the principal
- 4th Offense: The student is suspended for a longer period of time; the involvement of a community officer is requested.
- 5th Offense: The student is transferred to another school and the police are more heavily involved because charges could be pressed.

*•In all instances these measures are applied at the discretion of the principal or his/her delegate taking into account the circumstances and severity and number of offenses*

*•Any and all disciplinary measures included in the school’s Code of Conduct must be in alignment with the LBPSB Safe and Caring Schools Policy.*

**9. Required Follow-Ups:**

The St. John Fisher Jr Community recognizes that once the initial investigation and response process has been completed, supervisory or support measures may need to be put in place for the perpetrator, the child who has been victimized and, when deemed necessary, the witnesses to an act of bullying or violence. The extent of these follow-up measures will depend upon the nature of the incident and the degree to which it is believed that long-term intervention is necessary.

Proposed Actions:

- St. John Fisher Jr commits to ongoing discussion with the child who has been victimized and, if necessary, his/her parent regarding the school’s intervention and any actions required subsequent to the initial investigation and intervention.
- Should it be considered necessary, St. John Fisher Jr commits to a follow-up discussion with any witness supporting the action taken by the witness if a report was made.
- St. John Fisher Jr will not be indifferent to instances where witnesses to acts of violence or bullying fail to intervene or report such incidents to an adult in the building (witness). In such cases, St. John Fisher Jr commits to making the witness aware of the school’s expectation and his/her responsibility to intervene or report in such circumstances.

- St. John Fisher Jr will meet with the perpetrator and his/her parents to discuss possible further sanctions and further consequences if another act occurs. The contents of this meeting will be documented and recorded for future reference if necessary.
- Official reporting forms will include a “date of follow-up” box which will indicate a date on which issue will be revisited by principal or his/her delegate for confirmation that the problem is resolved.
- A summary report of the incident and follow-up measures taken are sent to the Director General or his/her delegate.