



# *Anti-Bullying and Anti-Violence Plan*

## *2015-16*

**School :** **St. John Fisher Sr. 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.

### **Members of the anti-bullying and anti-violence team:**

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*Balgovind Pande, Governing Board Chair*

*Tony Di Vittori, Principal*

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

The St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary Community pledges its support for the position of the Lester B. Pearson School Board's Safe School Policy with respect to school safety and security. To that end, St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary 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 Sr. Elementary will poll the student population twice per year (November/April) through its "Tell Them from Me" survey to identify the student perception of bullying. The first survey establishes the situation, and allows for the implementation of actions and strategies. The second survey indicates the degree of impact of the actions and strategies.
- St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary 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 Sr. Elementary commits to having standard written reports completed by staff, students and parents regarding reported incidents of violence or bullying.
- St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary 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 Sr. Elementary will keep a general tally of referrals to the office for bullying or violent behaviours for reporting purposes.
- St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary commits to including its analysis of the situation, targets, actions, strategies and monitoring mechanisms in the school's MESA and to including a section on outcomes in its Annual Report on the MESA.

## **2. Prevention Measures:**

The St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary 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 Sr. Elementary 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 Sr. Elementary is committed to the goals and objectives of the LBPSB Digital Citizenship Project and its implication in this plan.
- St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary will continue to implement programs related to anti-violence and anti-bullying over the course of each school year. These programs include:
  - Peaceful Schools Initiatives
  - Peace Pals/Peer Mediation
  - Student “team building” excursions at the beginning of the school year
  - Phys Ed Intramurals (lunch & recess)
  - Student Social Action Committee Initiatives
  - Collaboration with the Pointe Claire Police Station 5 Community Officers
  - Community Initiatives (Bayview Seniors’ Residence, Pte-Claire Legion, Food Bank)
  - LBPSB Student Peace Summit
  - Free The Children “We Day”
  - Dare to Care. bullying prevention program
  - “Pat on the Back” student assemblies
  - Pink T-Shirt Day (anti-bullying month)
  - Staff professional development using Board and community consultants
- St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary will survey students and staff regularly to determine where the ‘hot spots’ are for bullying and violence are located, resulting in increased adult supervision in these areas.
- St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary will commit to a minimum of one presentation annually by an outside organization. (team building activity, community partnership, play, concert, etc.) which focuses on the theme of anti-violence or anti-bullying.
- St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary will engage in ongoing student/teacher/staff/Governing Board information sessions on bullying and prevention.
- St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary 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 Sr. Elementary 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, parent, 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 Sr. Elementary 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 Sr. Elementary website.
- St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary will commit itself to including references and share anti-bullying/anti-violence themes at the AGM and Curriculum Evenings.
- St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary will share anti-violence/anti-bullying strategies at parent meetings with classroom teachers and discuss current classroom practices with respect to this plan.
- The St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary Code of Conduct will be distributed annually to members of the school community (i.e. agenda and website). This distribution will include a mechanism for students to read, review, and acknowledge the code of conduct (i.e. student assembly, class discussion, signature in agenda).
- St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary will post information or links on its school website with relevant parent information regarding bullying, being a responsible bystander, internet safety, cyber-bullying, etc.
- In collaboration with its Governing Board, and Home & School Committee, St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary will present parent information sessions on specific topics of bullying and violence.
- St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary commits to ongoing communication between school personnel and the parents of children who are being bullied and those who engage in bullying behaviours, until complete resolution of the problem. Additionally, St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary commits to periodic follow-up communication with the victim of bullying, and his/her parents to ensure that the measures taken have been successful.

- Possible interventions to establish partnerships with parents: identify students with behavioural difficulties – school Principal/teacher makes initial contact at the beginning of the year to discuss how ‘we’ want the year to be successful for the student. For students with behavioural challenges, contact (email, note, telephone call) home when positive behaviours are seen.

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

All members of the St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary 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 Sr. Elementary 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 Sr. Elementary 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.
- Once a student has made a verbal report of a bullying or violent incident, he/she provides a written report of what has taken place with a verbal account provided to an adult. This is providing the student is capable of producing said report.
- St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary 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 Sr. Elementary 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, their designate or classroom teacher. This contact and subsequent follow-up will be documented by St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary personnel.
- 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 Sr. Elementary invites the following forms of contact from parents:
  - 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:**

No member of the St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary Community will be indifferent towards reported or witnessed acts of violence and bullying. We are committed to responding to and investigating any report we receive 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.

**Actions Steps:**

- All St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary staff will be committed to a zero indifference policy with respect to acts of violence or bullying or reports of said acts. All acts or reports will be investigated.
- A St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary 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 immediately.
  - If the staff member considers his/her intervention in the situation successful, student is not referred to administration. However, an intervention report must be filed and submitted to principal if the staff member considers the incident to be one of violence or bullying.
  - The staff member may determine that the student involved in the bullying and/or violent behaviour should be sent directly to administration, depending on the severity of the incident.
  - At the discretion of the school principal or his/her delegate, police intervention may be requested in the form of a call for support from the school's Socio-Community Officer.
- A St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary student may intervene if the situation does not threaten his /her well-being and/or may choose to seek the assistance of a staff member.

- Any St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary student who witnesses an incident of violence or bullying must report the incident to the appropriate staff member in the school using the established protocols (refer to 4 in this plan).
- Any member of the St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary Parent Community who is witness to an act of bullying or violence is obliged to report that incident directly to the school administration. The steps that are undertaken include investigation of the report, appropriate measures taken and appropriate follow-up as per Section 4 of this plan.

*Note: All St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary 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 Sr. Elementary 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 Sr. Elementary 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 Sr. Elementary 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 Sr. Elementary 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 Sr. Elementary 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 Sr. Elementary 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 if necessary and report the incident as per the process described in Section 6 of the plan.

### Proposed Actions (Victim):

- A staff member will determine the severity and frequency of the incident (s) through a discussion with the student. The adult may be the classroom teacher, administrator or another staff member with whom the student is comfortable talking.
- A St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary 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 discussion or follow-up meetings with their support contact to ensure establishment of a sense of security.
- In some cases, the school team may suggest a referral to the school social worker or make a CSSS referral for victim services.
- The St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary team may suggest the involvement of the victim in a social skills group.
- The St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary team may suggest referral to an outside agency for support or services if it feels such services are warranted.
- The St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary team may suggest specific therapeutic intervention after consultation with professionals from the Student Services Department of the Lester B. Pearson School Board.
- In all cases, victims of bullying or violence should have a reasonable expectation of feedback from intervening adult figure in a timely manner so as to guarantee a sense of safety and security in the school.



- In any circumstance, intervention with a perpetrator of an act of violence or bullying at St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary may include a therapeutic intervention as a means of support. Such interventions may include:
  - Referral to an outside organization for support (CSSS, hospital programs)
  - Social Skills groups
  - Temporary or permanent placement in alternate class in school
  - Support in the Resource room
  - FSSTT Type II Consultation
  - Intervention of CSSS Social Worker

### **8. Disciplinary Sanctions:**

The St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary 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 the long-term objective is for rehabilitation and reintegration and 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:

- The perpetrator will engage in a discussion with the adult who witnesses or is told of the incident. Adult decides no further follow-up is required. A report goes to the Principal.
- Parent informed and possible meeting set up.
- St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary may request the supervision of the perpetrator during free time; i.e. must be shadowed by a supervisor during recess and at lunch time.
- Detention of the perpetrator may be requested. During this time there is a discussion with the supervising staff member about the incident and how to better deal with similar situations should they occur.
- St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary staff member may request that the perpetrator is sent to the office or other designated area while the initial investigation of the incident is being carried out.
- Students may lose basic school privileges (lunch hour, recess, extra-curricular activities, attendance at outside events, etc.) for a designated length of time.

- St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary 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 Sr. Elementary personnel.
- Reflection Time
- Resource Support
- Resource room periods with stated objectives with respect to reflection and discussion of offending conduct.
- Restorative Justice
- Community Service either inside or outside of the school setting.
- Out-of-school suspension
- Out of school suspension with progressive re-entry.
- Out-of-school suspension with re-entry meeting 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.
- Involvement of the Police
- Cours a domicile / Home Study
- Recommendation to move the student to another school or to expel from the Board.
- Referral for outside services (i.e. anger management program)
- **Clearly articulated progression of consequences:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Reflection and mediation takes place (students & staff member/principal) and parents are involved. The community officers maybe involved.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: The student is given an in-school suspension with the loss of basic school privileges. Parents are contacted and community officers involved.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: The student is suspended from school and the victim's parents are encouraged to press charges.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Offense: The student is suspended and the police become more heavily involved (i.e. a police report is made) and the student is sent to a planning room in another school with a progressive re-entry plan implemented.

- 5<sup>th</sup> Offense: The student is transferred to another school and the police are more heavily involved because charges have been pressed.

*Note #1: 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*

*Note #2: Any and all disciplinary measures included in the school's Code of Conduct must in alignment with the LBPSB Safe and Caring Schools Policy.*

## **9. Required Follow-Ups:**

The St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary 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 victim 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 Sr. Elementary commits to ongoing discussion with the victim 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 Sr. Elementary commits to a follow-up discussion with any witness supporting the action taken by witness if a report was made.
- St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary 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 (bystander). In such cases, St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary commits to making the bystander aware of the school's expectation and his/her responsibility to intervene or report in such circumstances.
- St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary will meet with the perpetrator and his/her parent 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 problem is resolved.
- A summary report of the incident and follow-up measures taken are sent to the Director General or his/her delegate.