



## St. Edmund Elementary School Anti-Bullying and Anti-Violence Plan 2020-2021



### **School: St. Edmund Elementary School**

**Goal:** To prevent and stop all forms of bullying and violence targeting a student, a teacher or any other staff member. To work with all of our students, staff and parents in creating a safe and caring learning environment for everyone at St. Edmund Elementary.

### **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 injures, 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.

**Conflict:** refers to a clash or disagreement based on principles, options or interests between two or more people.

**Cyber-bullying.** Bullying that occurs in the virtual world. It can occur whenever and from wherever: the virtual world is accessible at any time and from just about any place. It can bring together other witnesses, thereby allowing the immediate distribution of the words and images posted, in a way that is both unlimited and irreversible. It can occur in a secretive manner and forego the supervision of parents, teachers and other responsible adults.

### **Clarifications to Definitions:**

**Bullying must not be tolerated and requires intervention should it occur.** Bullying occurs across all the social, cultural and socioeconomic contexts. It is a complex phenomenon with multiple origins.

**Bullying is not fighting.** Bullying is aggression (imbalance of power) and not necessarily a physical fight. A jostle, a fight, an insult or another threat restricted to two individuals on an equal power footing is not necessarily considered bullying.

## **Members of the Anti-Bullying and Anti-Violence Team:**

1. Melissa Hunter, Principal
2. Louise Cavaliere, Daycare Technician
3. Jennifer Hayden, Teacher

**Governing Board Approval date: TBD**

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

The St. Edmund Community pledges its support for the position of the Lester B. Pearson School Board's Safe and Caring School Policy with respect to school safety and security. To that end, St. Edmund 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.

#### **School Portrait:**

St. Edmund offers an Early Immersion Program featuring the Français Plus model and continues to be an academically driven school. The staff at St. Edmund remain committed to maximizing individual student learning in an environment where all decisions are made in the best interest of the child.

With the support of many devoted parents who have formed a partnership with the school, the students at St. Edmund are provided a well-rounded, challenging education in a safe and nurturing environment. The school population is relatively constant and hovers around 400 students.

#### **Proposed Plan For Analysis:**

- St. Edmund will survey the student population (Gr. 4, 5 & 6) annually through the *Tell Them From Me* (TTFM) survey to identify the student perception of bullying.
- St. Edmund will include Transportation/Bus Reports related to acts of bullying or violence as part of its general snapshot of the school's situation.
- St. Edmund will record in-school and out-of-school suspensions related to bullying and violent behaviour and include them in the snapshot.
- St-Edmund will keep a general tally of referrals to the office for bullying or violent behaviours for reporting purposes.

### **2. Prevention Measures:**

The St. Edmund 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 ability to address them in a peaceful manner. 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 Plan For Prevention:**

- The St. Edmund Code of Conduct will be distributed to all school members and parents annually through the school agenda, and will be posted on the school website. 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. Edmund is committed to the goals and objectives of the LBPSB Digital Citizenship Project and its implication in this plan.
- St. Edmund will continue to/look towards implementing programs related to anti-violence and anti-bullying over the course of each school year. These programs may include:
  - Peaceful Schools Initiative
  - Girls, boys club
  - Grade 6 referees for soccer
  - Bullying Prevention Program
  - Social Skills Program with school spiritual animator
  - Junior Leadership
  - St. Edmund's Code of Conduct
  - School projects i.e., posters, on bullying;
  - Prevention addresses during school wide assemblies.
  - Grade 6 monitors
  - Guest Speakers
  - SEL Initiatives
  - Culture of Kindness and Compassion Initiatives
  - Student council
- St. Edmund will commit to a minimum of one presentation annually by an outside organization (play, team building activity, concert, etc.) which focuses on the theme of anti-violence or anti-bullying.
- St. Edmund will engage in ongoing student/teacher/staff/parent/governing board information sessions on bullying and prevention.
- St. Edmund 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. Edmund Community includes parents and volunteers and, as a consequence, it is understood that they are all committed to the goals and objectives of this plan. It is critical that parents and volunteers 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.40)

#### **Proposed Steps for Parent Collaboration:**

- St. Edmund shall review and make available the St. Edmund Anti-Bullying, Anti-Violence plan annually. A permanent link to this document will be maintained on the St. Edmund website.
- St. Edmund will include references to anti-bullying/anti-violence themes at gatherings such as Curriculum Night, Report Evenings, Parent Gatherings, Assemblies etc.
- St. Edmund will distribute the Code of Conduct annually to members of the school community. This distribution will include a mechanism for receipt and review acknowledgement by parents.
- St. Edmund commits to ongoing communication between all 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. Edmund commits to periodic follow-up communication with the victim of bullying, and his/her parents to ensure that the measures taken have been successful.
- St. Edmund commits itself to early intervention by identifying students with behavioural issues, and establishing partnerships with parents. The school principal/teacher will initiate contact at the start of each year as needed so that a collaborative approach can be developed to ensure/encourage student success.

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

All members of the St. Edmund 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 Steps For Reporting (Students):**

- Use of School Board Centralized reporting system

- St. Edmund 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. Edmund student who witnesses an act of bullying or violence is responsible to tell a staff member at school, or an adult at home so as to allow those adults to follow-up with reporting. The student will be expected to write down the incident in a brief report.
- Once a student has made a verbal report of bullying or a violent incident, a written report documenting the event will be created, and relevant information will be communicated to the students' teachers.

#### **Proposed Steps For Reporting (Parents):**

- Members of the St. Edmund 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, the classroom teacher and/or other staff. This contact and subsequent follow-up will be documented by St. Edmund 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 ensure confidentiality of parties involved.**
- St. Edmund invites the following forms of contact from parents:
  - Direct phone call/email to school administrator.
  - Letter detailing issue or incident addressed to school administrator, classroom teacher and support staff
  - Online reporting via the ABAV Icon located on the school's webpage.
  - A reporting form that is available at the school's main office.

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

No member of the St. Edmund 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.

#### **Proposed Steps For Actions To Be Taken:**

- All Staff at St. Edmund are committed to a zero tolerance policy with respect to acts of violence or bullying or reports of said acts. All acts or reports will be investigated.

- A St. Edmund staff member who observes or is made aware of a possible act of bullying or violence will intervene to assess the situation and take action if deemed necessary.
- If the staff member considers his/her intervention in the situation successful, student is not referred to administration. However, an intervention/incident report must be filed and submitted to the 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.
- A St. Edmund 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. Edmund 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 for reporting.
- Any member of the St. Edmund parent community who is witness to an act of bullying or violence is expected 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 for reporting.

**Note:** All St. Edmund 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. Edmund 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. Edmund is committed to keeping these records confidential and secure so as to protect all parties regardless of their role in the incident.

### **Proposed Steps To Protect Confidentiality:**

- The St. Edmund anti-violence/anti-bullying plan will be reviewed annually and all staff are reminded that every incident and the follow-up must be kept confidential.
- In all instances and procedures, sensitivity to the fears and feelings of all parties must be kept in mind.
- 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 separate file from the cumulative or confidential file of an individual student.
- **Members of the St. Edmund 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. Edmund personnel are not obliged to share information about involved students (victim, perpetrator, witness or bystander) with anyone but other staff members and parents of that student.
- The rule of confidentiality will be respected at all times.

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

All members of the St. Edmund Community will be thorough in their treatment of reported cases of bullying or violence. They will intervene in an appropriate manner, request the intervention of school administration if necessary, and report the incident as per the process described in the Measures to Protect Confidentiality Section of this plan.

#### **Proposed Steps For Support (Victim):**

- An adult 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 adult staff member with whom the student is comfortable talking.
- A St. Edmund staff member will conduct scheduled, and informal 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 by administration 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 person being bullied 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, make a CIUSSS (Centre Integre Universitaire de Sante et de Services Sociaux) referral for victim services.
- The St. Edmund team may suggest the involvement of the victim in a social skills group or may suggest referral to an outside agency for support or services if it feels such services are warranted.
- In all cases, victims of bullying or violence should have a reasonable expectation of feedback from intervening adult figures in a timely manner so as to guarantee a sense of safety and security in the school.

- In cases, where victims of bullying or violence feel that the situation has not been resolved at the school level, they are encouraged to contact the school board for further guidance

**Proposed Steps For Support (Witness/Bystander):**

- Following the incident, an intervention may be held with any bystanders to determine their role in the incident. If the incident witnessed is severe, witnesses/bystanders are met, in a group or individually, to debrief the event, discuss their role and to determine more appropriate actions in the future.
- Consequences are applied, if appropriate for students that are actively involved in encouraging the incident.
- St. Edmund reserves the right to contact the parents of witnesses/bystanders when it feels such contact is appropriate.
- Witnesses to acts of bullying or violence should have a reasonable expectation of feedback from an intervening adult figure in a timely manner so as to guarantee a sense of safety and security in the school.
- Consequences will be applied, if appropriate, for students, who as witnesses/bystanders, record the incident in any way and/or who distribute the recorded images of the incident in any way.

**Proposed Steps For Support (Perpetrator):**

- The initial intervention with the perpetrator is managed by the St. Edmund staff member who intervened, and an intervention/incident report is submitted to the office (or the person designated to receive reports).
- Once an investigation has been completed and the incident is confirmed to be bullying and/or violence, the St. Edmund Principal meets with the perpetrator. The perpetrator is told of the report, discusses the incident and is given a consequence.
- The perpetrator's parents are called 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. Edmund may refer the perpetrator and his/her parents to support services available to the school.
- St. Edmund is responsible to inform parents of their right to request assistance from the designated School Board professional for referral to support services.
- It is expected that following any intervention, the perpetrator must report to the 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 the measures to Encourage Parental Collaboration section of this plan.
- In any circumstance, intervention with a perpetrator of an act of violence or bullying at St. Edmund may include a therapeutic intervention as a means of support. Such interventions may include:
  - Possible placement in another classroom within the school

- Referral to an outside organization for support (CIUSSS)
- Referral to a therapeutic or educational program focused on challenging behaviours
- Social skills groups
- Intervention of CIUSSS Social Worker or a socio-community police officer
- Type II Consultation
- Support from Special Education Technician

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

The St. Edmund 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 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 Measures For Sanctions:**

- The perpetrator will engage in a discussion with the adult who witnesses or is told of the incident. A report goes to the Principal. The Principal decides if further follow-up is required. Parents will be informed if the incident is deemed to be an act of bullying or violence.
- St. Edmund 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. Edmund staff members 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.
- The following measures may be put in place:
  - Reflection time
  - In-school suspension supervised by St-Edmund personnel.
  - Out-of-school suspension with re-entry intake meeting with parents and student(s)
  - Resource Support

- o Peer Mediation
- o Consultation and/or support from the Special Education Technician
- o Loss of school privileges, extra-curricular activities, attendance at special or offsite events.

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. Edmund 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 Steps:**

- St. Edmund commits to ongoing discussion with the **victim** and, if necessary, his/her parents regarding the school's intervention and any actions required subsequent to the initial investigation and intervention.
- Should it be considered necessary, St. Edmund commits to a follow-up discussion with any **witness/bystander** supporting the action taken by the witness if a report was made.
- St. Edmund 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. Edmund commits to making the bystander aware of the school's expectation and his/her responsibility to intervene or report in such circumstances.
- St. Edmund 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 will include a "date of follow-up" box which will indicate a date on which issue will be revisited by principal or her/his 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.