

Threat Risk Assessment Fair Notice and Process

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board recognizes that all members of the school community have the right to be safe and feel safe in their school community.

Under certain conditions, students may undergo a “Threat and Risk Assessment”. This assessment determines the level of risk to others and themselves.

What behaviours initiate a Student Violence and Risk Threat Assessment?

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

- Serious violence with the intent to kill or harm
- Verbal/written threats to kill others (clear, direct and plausible)
- Internet website/MSN threats to kill others
- Possession of weapons, including replicas
- Bomb threats (making and/or detonating explosive devices)
- Fire setting
- Sexual intimidation or assault
- Gang related intimidation and violence

Initiation of a Threat/Risk Assessment may occur dependent on the context of the incident or worrisome behaviour.

Duty to Report

To keep our school communities safe, all stakeholders must report all threat related behaviours. In the Waterloo Catholic District School Board, our policy on threats is that we have... “Zero tolerance for NOT REPORTING serious acts or threats of violence.”

What is a Threat Assessment Team?

Each school has a multi-disciplinary team. The team includes five or more people. The team consists of an administrator, a school resource police officer, a helper (psychologist, social worker, counselor or CYW) and additional people that may include community resources.

What is the purpose of a Student Threat Assessment?

- To ensure the safety of students, staff and parents
- To understand, based on the data gathered, the factors that contribute to the threat maker’s behaviour
- To develop an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker and others

What is the process?

- All threat making behaviours are reported to administration who may activate the protocol.
- A team is formed and people are assigned “data gathering” sources.
- Information may be obtained from multiple sources which include:
 - teachers, students, targets, threat makers, parents/caregivers
 - current and previous school records
 - law enforcement
 - support groups/agencies
 - online sites – Facebook, etc.
 - locker and backpack search, bedroom search
- Share data collection and make a determination of “low, medium, or high risk”
- Develop an intervention plan to reduce risk of violence

* All Waterloo Catholic DSB policies and procedures align with the *Safe Schools Act*.

* The model presented in this document reflects the work of Kevin Cameron, Director for the Canadian Centre for Threat and Risk Assessment.