

Anti-Bullying & Anti-Violence Plan

2016 - 2017

Dorset Elementary School

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

Definitions:

Bullying: Bullying is defined in the Education Act (Article 13) as: “A repeated direct or indirect behavior, comment, act or gesture whether deliberate or not, including in cyberspace, which occurs in the context where there is an imbalance between the persons concerned and which causes distress and injures, hurts, oppresses, intimidates or ostracizes”.

Violence: Violence is defined in the Education Act (Article 13) as: “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 of property”.

Members of the anti-bullying and anti-violence team: The Dorset Staff

Governing Board approval: February 10, 2016
Revised October 3, 2016

Andrew Capus, Governing Board Chair

Natalie Maurice, Principal

1. Analysis of the School's Situation:

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

Proposed Steps

- Dorset will poll the student population twice per year (November/April) through the Tell Them From Me survey to identify the students' 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.
- Dorset commits to having standard written reports completed by staff, students and parents regarding reported incidents of violence or bullying.
- Dorset will include Transportation/Bus Reports related to acts of bullying or violence as part of its general snapshot of the school's situation.
- Out-of-school suspensions and expulsions related to bullying and violent behaviour will be recorded and included in the snapshot.
- Dorset will keep a general tally of referrals to the office for bullying or violent behaviours for reporting purposes.
- Dorset 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 Dorset 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 Steps

- The Dorset Code of Conduct will be posted on the website annually. The school community will be informed at the start of the year to consult the website and to review all plans and policies with their children. 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.
- Dorset will continue to implement programs related to anti-violence and anti-bullying over the course of each school year. These programs may include, but are not limited to:
 - W.I.T.S (Walk away – Ignore – Talk it out – Seek help)
 - Zones of Regulation
 - Peaceful Schools Initiative
 - We Day
- Dare to Care bullying prevention program
- Citizenship Awards
- Pink T-Shirt Day/ Anti – Bullying Activities
- Digital Citizenship Awareness
- Dorset will commit to a minimum of one presentation annually by an outside organization (play, team building activity, concert, etc.) which will focus on the theme of anti-violence and/or anti-bullying.
- Dorset will engage in ongoing student/teacher/staff/Governing Board information sessions on building a positive and peaceful school culture and climate.
- Dorset 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 Dorset 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 Steps

- Dorset 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 Dorset website.
- The Dorset Code of Conduct will be posted on the website annually. The school community will be informed at the start of the year to consult the website and to review all plans and policies with their children. 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.
- Dorset will post information or links on its school website with relevant parent information regarding bullying, being a responsible bystander, internet safety, cyber-bullying, etc.
- Dorset will share anti-violence/anti-bullying strategies at parent meetings with classroom teachers and discuss current classroom practices with respect to this plan.
- Dorset 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, Dorset 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, efforts will be made to make a call home when positive behaviour is seen by a staff member.

4. Procedures for Reporting:

All members of the Dorset 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 (Students)

- Dorset guarantees confidentiality for parties reporting incidents of bullying and/or violence. At the same time, we guarantee that the identified perpetrator is made aware of the details of the report made against him/her.
- Any Dorset 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.
- Dorset confirms that any verbal report given to a staff member from a student will be evaluated and, if necessary, documented and followed-up as needed.

Proposed Steps (Parents)

- Members of the Dorset 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 Dorset personnel.
- Within two working 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.
- Dorset invites the following forms of contact from parents:
 - Letter detailing issue or incident addressed to school administrator or classroom teacher.
 - Email to teacher and principal

The procedure remains the same for lunch and daycare staff.

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

No member of the Dorset 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:

- All Dorset 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 Dorset 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 911 emergency call or a call for support from the school's Socio-Community Officer.
- A Dorset 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 Dorset 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 Dorset 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 Dorset reports regarding incidents of violence and/or bullying will 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, Dorset 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. Dorset is committed to keeping these records confidential and secure so as to protect all parties regardless of their role in the incident.

Proposed Steps:

- The Dorset 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.
- 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 Dorset Community agree that in all cases involving students information shared should be on a need to know basis only.
- All parties acknowledge that Dorset personnel are not obliged to share information about another student with anyone but other staff and parents of that student
- Dorset will communicate to schools that receive our students regarding their behavior and conduct as it might relate to bullying and violence.

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

All members of the Dorset 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 Steps (Victim):

- A staff member will determine the severity and frequency of the incident (s) through a discussion with the student. The staff member may be the classroom teacher, administrator or another staff member with whom the student is comfortable talking.
- A Dorset staff member will conduct 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, it will be determined as to which members of the school staff must be made aware of the incident to ensure that the student is safe.
- When appropriate parents will be informed following an incident and 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 Dorset team may suggest the involvement of the victim in a social skills group.
- The Dorset team may suggest referral to an outside agency for support or services if it feels such services are warranted.

- The Dorset 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.

Proposed Steps (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, 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.
- Dorset reserves the right to contact the parents of bystanders when it feels such contact is appropriate.
- As with victims, witnesses to acts 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.

The rights and responsibilities of the Digital Citizenship Program must be respected at all times.

Proposed Steps (Perpetrator):

- The initial interaction with the perpetrator is managed by the Dorset staff member who intervened and the incident is reported to the office.
- This staff member makes a report to the office (or the person designated to receive reports) with a request for follow-up investigation. Once an investigation has been completed and the incident is confirmed to be bullying and/or violence, the Dorset Principal or delegate meets 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, Dorset may refer the perpetrator and his/her parents to support services available to the school.
- Dorset 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 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 Section 3 of this plan.

The rights and responsibilities of the Digital Citizenship Program must be respected at all times.

- In any circumstance, intervention with a perpetrator of an act of violence or bullying at Dorset 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 Dorset 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 everyone 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 Steps:

- The perpetrator will engage in a discussion with the staff member who witnesses or is told of the incident. The staff member decides if further follow-up is required. Either way, a report goes to the Principal.
- Dorset may request the supervision of the perpetrator during free time.
- Detention of the perpetrator may be requested. During this time there may be a discussion with the supervising staff member about the incident and how to better deal with similar situations should they occur.
- Dorset staff member 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.
- Perpetrators may lose basic school privileges (recess, lunch recess, teams, clubs etc.) for a designated length of time.

- Dorset may implement a structured supervision plan of the perpetrator during free time where he/she is shadowed and monitored in his/her actions. Depending on the perpetrator's behavior during this supervised time, incremental increases in unsupervised free play may be implemented.
 - Reflection Time
 - Resource Support
 - Parent informed and possible meeting set up
 - Loss of recess/lunch privileges
 - Referral for anger management program
 - Referral for outside services
 - Loss of school privileges, extra-curricular activities, attendance at outside events, etc.
 - 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
 - Community Service either inside or outside of the school setting
 - Involvement of the Police
 - Recommendation to move the student to another school or to expel from the Board

• *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 Dorset 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:

- Dorset 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.

- Dorset 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, Dorset commits to making the bystander aware of the school's expectation and his/her responsibility to intervene or report in such circumstances.
- Dorset 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 complaints and follow-up measures taken are sent to the Regional Director.