

# SCS BULLYING PREVENTION & INTERVENTION PLAN

## Our School Commitment

We are committed to establishing and supporting learning and working environments that are safe, welcoming, respectful, equitable, accessible, inclusive, and free from discrimination, oppression, and harm. Indigenous inherent rights, human rights and equity are at the center of our work. This fundamental commitment to human rights begins with meaningful investment in a Positive School Climate.

## A Positive School Climate:

- Ensures that everyone is treated with dignity and respect;
- Welcomes and includes everyone;
- Values, affirms, and supports the expression of diverse identities;
- Promotes, protects, and upholds Indigenous inherent rights and human rights - including students' right to education without discrimination and employees' right to employment without discrimination;
- Prioritizes relationships, well-being, and equity through a whole school approach.

## School Climate Team

Principal: Kerri Tolen

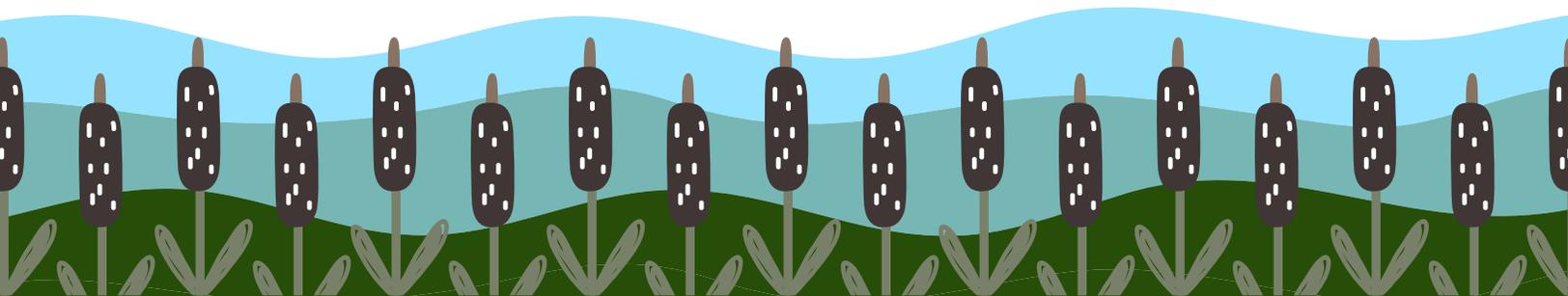
School Lead: Kim Walter

School Council Chair: Krista Olson

Parent/Caregiver: School Council Members

Non-Teaching Staff: Jeanette Veldhuisen

Teaching: Kerri Loughrey



## Evaluation of Evidence

As part of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation process, schools gather data from various sources, including school climate surveys of students, staff and parents/caregivers every two years. Our school data from 2021-2022 (40 Junior, 17 Intermediate) indicates the following:

- 60% of Junior students and 76% of Intermediate students have NOT been bullied
- 76% of Junior and 86% of Intermediate students feel safe at school
- 36% of Junior and 70% of Intermediate students feel they are part of their school
- 44% of Junior and 24% of Intermediate students report feeling unwelcome or uncomfortable at school due to various factors e.g., race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical/learning/emotional challenge, other reasons
- 90% of Junior and 70% of Intermediate students report knowing how to access mental health and support services within the school

### Sturgeon Goals For 2023/24

Based on the analysis of various sources of data, our school has identified specific bullying prevention and intervention goal statements for this school year. These goal statements will drive our actions for this year. Outcomes will be monitored and assessed using a continuous improvement cycle.



#### Goals:

- SCS will promote diversity and inclusion by organizing activities throughout the year, in classrooms and within the school community, that foster an appreciation of differences among students to increase student sense of belonging.
- SCS teachers will promote kindness by addressing bullying and managing student-centered, caring classrooms, through curriculum and learning experiences to increase the number of students feeling safe at school.
- SCS will use common, age-appropriate, messaging about the RRDSB Code of Conduct (safe, respectful, responsible) and acknowledge bullying versus a mean moment, conflict, teasing to maintain/improve school climate to increase the percentage of students who have never being bullied.

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## Prevention Strategies

At Sturgeon Creek School, we recognize that a whole-school approach to involving and engaging our school community will help us to effectively manage inappropriate behaviour. In collaboration with the community, the school will create the conditions to promote a positive, welcoming, and inclusive learning environment for all students that will help to prevent bullying, harassment, and discrimination.

We are committed to focus on education and awareness by doing the following:

- Build student capacity of intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect
- Progressive Discipline
- A trauma-informed approach
- Staff actively supervise and engage with all students
- Staff review the Code of Conduct - beginning of terms, and as needed
- Staff and students learn/review strategies to prevent and respond to bullying
- Bullying prevention awareness is shared with all stakeholders in a variety of formats e.g., social media, signs, events
- Building relationships is an ongoing focus of all staff
- Listen to student voice
- Staff review the student handbook with students and provide a copy to all parents/caregivers via email at the beginning of each semester
- Staff use School Mental Health Ontario classroom tools and resources <https://smho-smsso.ca>
- Promotion of Kids Help Phone (1-800-688-6868)
- Provision and promotion of safe spaces throughout the school
- Provision of a variety of clubs and activities to engage our diverse student population and interests
- Use of the Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol
- Provide opportunities for students to participate in equity and inclusive education, bullying prevention, and leadership initiatives



## Intervention Strategies

Our school response follows a bias-aware approach to progressive discipline that involves the following immediate and long-term actions:

- Ensuring the safety of all involved
- Responding to any student behaviour that is likely to have a negative impact on the school climate
- Use of Restorative Practices when appropriate
- Conducting a school-based investigation (consulting the Police/Board Protocol, when necessary and appropriate) considering mitigating, human rights, and other factors
- Contacting the parent/caregivers of the person(s) who has been harmed and the parents/caregivers of the person(s) who has caused harm, in accordance with legislation
- Considering the broader context and implications of the harmful interaction (e.g. racism, homophobia, transphobia, biphobia, Islamophobia, antisemitism, faithism, classism, ableism, misogyny) in order to inform both immediate and long-term responses
- Developing an action plan that is responsive and supportive
- Taking concrete steps to repair relationship and restore a Positive School Climate
- Consider individual, class, and/or whole-school learning opportunities to foster the condition wherein similar situations may be prevented in the future e.g., providing a school-wide lesson or activity on being an ally
- Consulting and collaborating with community partners and RRDSB School Support Services staff, as appropriate
- Implementing a Student Safety Plan in consultation with appropriate staff and update and monitor as necessary
- Implementing/reviewing a Positive Behaviour Support Plan, when appropriate

## Reporting

We believe in creating conditions within which students may feel safe to report and this begins with an investment in relationships and the promotion of a Positive School Climate. Additionally, there are procedures that facilitate students and parent/caregiver reporting as well as procedures that outline the requirements for staff to report such instances in accordance with legislation.

### Student Reporting

- Reporting bullying or other harmful interactions to a trusted adult (e.g., parent/caregiver, teacher, administrator, support staff, police liaison officer)
- Using the “Bullying Reporting Portal” on the RRDSB website provides students a more discreet means of reporting bullying behaviours

### Parent/Community Reporting

- Reporting bullying and other harmful interactions to the classroom teacher, support staff and/or administration
- Using the “Bullying Reporting Portal” on the RRDSB website provides students a more discreet means of reporting bullying behaviours

### Staff Reporting

- Staff who witness bullying or become aware of bullying are required to immediately address it. If they feel unsafe, they must immediately report it to the principal
- “The Education Act states that an employee of the board who becomes aware that a student at the school of the board may have engaged in a serious student incident shall report the matter to the principal as soon as reasonably possible” (PPM 144)
- When appropriate, staff complete and submit the “Safe Schools Incident Reporting Form – Part I” to the principal. The principal provides written acknowledgement to the employee using the “Safe Schools Incident Reporting Form – Part II” (PPM 144)

## Supports For Those Impacted by Bullying

Support for the person(s) who has been harmed, the person(s) who has caused harm and the person(s) who has witnessed harm may include:

- Use of Restorative Practices if this is the best approach
- Furthering school-level support such as connection to a caring adult, classroom and building considerations, special needs considerations, participation in co-curricular programming
- Implementing supports involving KRR counselors, Mental Health and Addictions Nurse and The Board Mental Health Lead
- Identifying community support resources
- Implementing a Positive Behaviour Support Plan as necessary

## Follow Up

Follow-up for the person(s) who has been harmed, the person(s) who has caused harm and the person(s) who has witnessed harm will include:

- Individual monitoring based on specific needs (e.g., regular check-ins)
- Conversations or learning opportunities as needed to support self-awareness, understanding of impact, social-emotional learning skills, and/or to inspire a shift in ideological trajectory if needed, e.g., in cases where ignorance, hate or discrimination are at play

## Healthy Relationships

Healthy Relationships are grounded in treating one another with dignity and respect. Healthy Relationships provide:

- A sense of security and stability
- Basic needs
- A sense of being valued and belonging
- Support and guidance to learn essential skills and understanding
- Protection from excessive stress



## Defintion of Bullying

Definition of Bullying Behaviour (from Accepting Schools Act 2012) Bullying means **aggressive and typically repeated behaviour** by a student where:

- a) the behaviour is intended by the student to have the effect of, or the student ought to know that the behaviour would be likely to have that effect of
- causing harm, fear, or distress to another individual, including physical, psychological, social or academic harm, harm to the person's reputation or property, or
  - creating a negative environment at the school for another individual, and
- b) the behaviour occurs in a context where there is a **real or perceived power imbalance** between the student and the individual based on factors such as size, strength, age, intelligence, peer group power, economic status, social status, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, family circumstances, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, disability or the receipt of special education.

Bullying behaviour includes the use of any physical, verbal, electronic, written or other means. Bullying by electronic means (cyber-bullying), includes creating a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person; impersonating another person as the author of messages posted on the internet; or communicating material electronically to more than one individual or posting material on a website that may be accessed by one or more individuals.

## Our School Commitment

While we work proactively to promote positive and respectful interactions, we will also address any behaviour or interaction that is likely to have a negative impact on the school climate, including bullying, discrimination and other forms of harmful interaction. In planning our responses, we will consider and provide support through Restorative Practices for all impacted staff and students, including those who were harmed, those who witnessed the harm, and those who caused harm.



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