

FAIR NOTICE

RESPONSE TO THREAT-MAKING BEHAVIOUR

School District 35 (Langley) is committed to a safe and supportive environment for all. We take all threatening comments and behaviours seriously.

What is a Threat?

- A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something
- A threat may be verbal, written, drawn, posted electronically, in a text or made by gesture
- A threat may include high-risk behaviour such as possession of a weapon

What Parents and Students Need to Know

- Any threat must be reported to the school administration, counsellor or some other trusted adult
- Investigation may involve the police and / or other community agencies
- Investigation may involve locker or personal property searches
- Interviews will be held with the threat-maker and other students or adults who may have information about the threat
- Parents of students who are directly involved will be notified
- Threatening behaviour may result in discipline for a student
- An intervention plan may be developed for the student making the threat and a support plan developed for any individuals targeted by threats

What is Threat Assessment?

- To ensure the safety of students, staff, parent/guardians and others
- To ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat
- To understand the factors contributing to the behaviour of the person of concern
- To proactively develop an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the person of concern and others

Everyone Has a Duty to Report

- Often when we hear in the media about a violent incident, we learn that the person had made threats in advance of acting violently.
- To keep our school communities safe, students, parents, staff and community members must report all threat-related behaviours and high-risk activities.

Behaviours that Initiate a Threat Assessment

- Violence with the intent to harm or kill
- In-person or online verbal, written, text message or image threats to harm or kill
- Bomb threats or fire-setting

Threat Assessment Team

- Principal or Vice-Principal
- Counsellor(s)
- School Liaison Officer

Privacy Matters

The School District is subject to personal information privacy laws, and will undertake the collection of this information in compliance with the requirements of such laws, including by limiting collection to information that is relevant and necessary to address a risk or threat and by ensuring that information is collected from publicly available open source media sites. The School District will not collect information as part of a threat assessment unless there is reason to believe that a risk exists. Information collected as part of a threat assessment may be provided to law enforcement authorities in appropriate circumstances.

SD35 will follow up on every reported threat.