

STOP Bullying & Violence



Bill 56 *An Act to Prevent and stop Bullying and Violence in Schools*

Every school must have an anti-bullying and anti-violence plan. It includes measures to stop all forms of bullying and violence. This plan is threefold.

- ⇒ **Firstly**, it details the actions to be taken as well as the support measures to be offered by staff members (principal, teachers, professionals, supervisors) when an act of bullying or violence is observed.
- ⇒ **Secondly**, it determines the disciplinary actions applicable to bullying and violence.
- ⇒ **Finally**, it specifies the follow-up to be given to any report or complaint concerning an act of bullying or violence. When dealing with these situations, the well-being of all students involved (target, bully and bystander).

A preoccupation we all share

Every year, the following actions take place :

- ⇒ Bill 56 and the school action is presented to all staff members
- ⇒ School anti-violence/bullying team is in place and a school staff member is designated to coordinate its work
- ⇒ Anti-violence/bullying action plan is reviewed and updated
- ⇒ Governing Board evaluates the results achieved by the school
- ⇒ All staff members are informed of the school's rules of conduct, safety measures, anti-violence/bullying measures, and of the procedure to be followed when an incident is observed
- ⇒ Document explaining the anti-violence/bullying plan is distributed to parents



School Priorities :

- ⇒ Establish preventative programs to promote positive peer interaction
- ⇒ Provide students with professional services to help find alternative ways of expressing anger
- ⇒ Work with the parents and in-school professionals to provide students with clear guidelines for expected behaviour
- ⇒ Seek help from external services such as CSSS, Volteface and other community services to help change inappropriate behaviour

Definitions :



Bullying

means 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

means any **intentional** demonstration of verbal, written, physical or sexual force which **causes distress, injures, hurts or oppresses a person** by attacking their psychological or physical integrity or well-being, or their rights or property.

School Action Plan Preventative Measures :

Here at SHS, we have :

- ⇒ A clear position regarding violence and intimidation
- ⇒ A Violence and Bullying Protocol in place
- ⇒ Established Rules of Conduct and Safety measures
- ⇒ Defined expected behaviors depending on developmental stage
- ⇒ Teaching of social competencies (empathy, conflict resolution, etc.)
- ⇒ A Peer Mediator Program
- ⇒ Clear physical boundaries for elementary and high school students
- ⇒ Professionals who prepare group activities to sensitize students to bullying

School Actions :

Measures taken at the time the act is reported

- ⇒ Intervene according to the school's code of conduct.
- ⇒ Inform school administration and parents of the incident.
- ⇒ Refer both the victim and the perpetrator to the school professionals
- ⇒ Give a consequence whose severity is proportional to the offence according to the nature of the behavior, the developmental age of the student, and the student's history of problem behaviors, and must be consistent with the Shawinigan High School Discipline Policy and Code of Conduct.
- ⇒ Remedial measures shall be designed to: correct the problem behavior; prevent another occurrence of the behavior; and protect the victim of the act.

Measures Taken to Support and Supervise

- ⇒ The school principal shall conduct a prompt, thorough, and complete investigation of each alleged incident. The investigation is to be completed within three school days after a report or complaint is made.
- ⇒ Every effort will be made to ensure the confidentiality of individual testimonies.
- ⇒ A "Concerns" box that will serve for confidential reports or complaints about bullying or violence is placed by the principal's office to allow students to voice their concerns in writing
- ⇒ All staff is responsible for protecting the victim and witnesses of incidences of violence or bullying. This supervision includes the classrooms, school yard, hallways, cafeteria, Games Room, Resource Room, Computer Lab, Daycare etc.

Possible Sanctions:

Making up for lost time, withholding privileges, removing the student from group, writing a personal reflection, detention during or after school hours (recess, lunch, after school), acceptable behaviour contract, in-school or out of school suspension, with return to school, police complaint, mediation session with school professionals, etc.

Follow-Up

To ensure an efficient follow-up, school staff will create a climate of trust and confidence throughout all interventions, support the student's efforts to better integrate himself or herself into the school environment, implement protection measures, if necessary, communicate with the parents and guarantee support when needed.

Ways of Reporting a Situation :

- Principal, teachers, professionals and supervisors are trained and available to confidentially receive reports and provide the support needed.
 - Procedures are clearly identified in school agenda.
 - Locked mailbox
 - Parents can call the school
- Students ask for a meeting with school administration or school professional.

For assistance please contact:

819-536-2116

Sophia Trakas (principal), extension 1610 or Karen Tetreault (psychoeducator), extension 3404

To report a situation regarding school transport:

418-688-8733 extension 3101

We pledge that each reported situation is treated with confidentiality, and we are committed to work constructively with victims, witnesses as well as those who commit acts of violence or intimidation