

# PRAIRIE SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION

## Student Violence Threat Risk Assessment

### A commitment to safe and caring learning environments

Prairie Spirit School Division is committed to working with families and community members to ensure our school learning environments are safe and caring.

As part of this commitment, Prairie Spirit works with other local school divisions and a variety of community organizations (for example, the Ministries of Social Services, Education and Justice and the RCMP) to implement the **Community Threat Assessment and Support Protocol (CTASP)**. The guiding principle of this protocol is that violence prevention in schools and neighborhoods is a community responsibility. The protocol fosters timely sharing of information about students who pose a risk of violence towards themselves or others.

As part of the protocol, we are also committed to following established procedures in our schools. Our Principals are required to complete a threat assessment to determine the immediacy and the level of risk whenever a student makes a significant threat to harm themselves or others. The purpose of the assessment is to determine how best to support high-risk students so that their behavior does not become hurtful or destructive.

### 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 on social media or made by gesture. To maintain a safe and caring learning environment, all threats must be taken seriously and responded to quickly and effectively.

To keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents/guardians/caregivers, students and community members must report all threat-related behaviors to the school Principal or Vice-Principal.

### Responding to a threat

Threats must be taken seriously and investigated, with an appropriate response. Prairie Spirit School Division will not accept a “no response” to a serious threat. Our goal is to respond to threats quickly and in an professional manner, so that we can maintain a safe and caring learning environment in our schools.

Each school has a multi-disciplinary Violence Threat Risk Assessment team. The team includes the school Principal and/or Vice-Principal, school counsel, school resource office (police) and Division office support. The team may also include community resources from the Ministry of Social Services, RCMP, Ministry of Justice, mental health and other agencies, as needed. Because of our shared understanding and commitment to safety, we are well equipped to intervene and respond to a student in crisis.

It is important for all parties to engage in the Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment process. However, if, for some reason, there is reluctance to participate in the process (by the threat maker or parent/guardian), the threat assessment process will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring learning environment for all.

### Violence Threat Risk Assessment will be initiated for the following behaviours:

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

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