



## Notice to our Students and Parents/Guardians/Caregivers

### Quesnel School District Threat Assessment Protocol

The Quesnel School District and our community partners are committed to having safe, caring and inclusive schools. In the event that a student makes a threat of violence or harm to other students, staff or the school community, the school will initiate the Quesnel School District threat assessment protocol.

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#### *Violence, Threat and Risk Assessment Protocol*

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#### **In the event of a serious threat to the wellbeing of students or staff, A Violence, Threat and Risk Assessment Protocol will be initiated.**

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. They may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the internet or made by gesture. Threats must be taken seriously, investigated and responded to.

#### **What is the purpose of a threat assessment?**

- to ensure the safety of all students, staff, parents and others
- to ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat
- to understand factors contributing to the threat makers' behaviour
- to be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker
- to promote the emotional and physical safety of all

#### **What behaviours initiate a VTRA?**

A VTRA will be initiated when behaviours include, but are not limited to, serious violence with intent to harm or kill, verbal/written threats to harm/kill others, Internet website/social media threats to harm/kill others, possession of weapons (including replicas), bomb threats, and fire setting.

#### **Duty to report**

Staff, parents, students and community members have a duty to report all threat-related behaviours to keep our school community safe.

#### **VTRA Team**

Our school has a multi-disciplinary threat assessment team. The team includes principal, vice-principal, district staff, school counsellors and police.

#### **What happens in a student threat assessment?**

After a report, the principal will activate the protocol for initial response. The team is activated and interviews may be held with the student(s), the threat maker, parents and staff to determine the level of risk and develop an appropriate response to the incident. Intervention plans will be developed and shared with parents, staff and students as required.

#### **Can someone refuse to participate in a threat assessment process?**

It is important for all parties to participate. If someone is reluctant to participate for some reason, the threat assessment process will continue in order to keep our school safe.