

Can I refuse to be a part of the Student Threat Assessment process?

It is important for all parties to engage in the process. However, if for some reason there is a 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.

Duty to Report

In order to keep our school communities safe, the Lambton Kent District School Board expects anyone in a school community having knowledge of high-risk student behaviour or having reasonable grounds to believe there is a potential for high-risk or violent behaviour to promptly report the information to the school principal.

For further information:
Contact your school principal.

Community Partners in VTRA

St. Clair Catholic District School Board
Conseil scolaire de district des écoles
Catholiques du Sud-Ouest

Canadian Mental Health Assoc.

Chatham Kent Children's Services
Chatham Kent Community Health
Centres

Chatham Kent Fire Department

Chatham Kent Health Alliance

Chatham Kent Police Service

Chatham Kent Public Health Unit

Chatham Kent Victim Services

Chatham Kent Community Living

Chatham Kent Recreation

Family Service Kent

Ministry of Children and Youth Services

Rain & Shine Behaviour Counselling

Restorative Justice Chatham Kent

University of Guelph - Ridgeway

VON - **CK Kids' Circle Program**

Western Area Youth Services

Bluewater Health

Community Living Sarnia Lambton

Family Counselling Centre

Huron House Boys Home

Lambton College

Pathways Health Centre for Children

Sarnia-Lambton Rebound

Sarnia Lambton Children's Aid Society

Sarnia Police Services

St. Clair Child and Youth Service

Violence Threat Risk Assessment

The safety of students and staff is an ongoing priority at the Lambton Kent District School Board. The Board's belief statements and policies underscore the importance of providing learning environments that are safe and caring, and that everyone has the right to be safe and feel safe in their school community.

This brochure is being provided as fair notice to parents and guardians of the existence of the VTRA Protocol and its application if situations warrant.



There are many initiatives in place to support our schools as safe places for students to learn. One important aspect of this overall effort is the training of all Board administrators and other staff in Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA), and the establishment of a community protocol to govern board, agency, and police service response when necessary.

The Lambton Kent District School Board was one of the first boards in the province to implement the coordinated training of multi-disciplinary Violence Threat Risk Assessment Teams (school principals, police, psychology department staff, and others). These teams work to assess potentially high risk student behaviour and evaluate the level of risk to others and the student exhibiting the behaviour.

This training and response plan was developed by Kevin Cameron, Director of the Canadian Centre for Threat and Risk Assessment. <http://www.cctatr.com/>

What is the purpose of Violence Threat Risk Assessment?

To help ensure the safety of students, staff and parents.

To gather information related to situations or behaviour of concern, and to assess that information to determine a course of action

To develop an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker and others.

What behaviours initiate a Violence Threat Risk Assessment?

Any behaviour that places self or others at risk of harm, including but not limited to the following:

Serious violence with the intent to kill or harm

Verbal/written threats to kill others (clear, direct and plausible) including web-based

Possession of weapons, including replicas

Sexual intimidation or assault

Bomb threats (making and/or detonating explosive devices)

Fire setting

A Violence Threat Risk Assessment may also be initiated because of the context of a particular situation, or student behaviour that has become worrisome, or has seen to be escalating over time. In the event that a threat assessment is necessary, the school principal, **local police, and a member of the board's psychology department would meet as the initial step.** Additional steps would involve other board personnel, as well as representatives from community agencies as appropriate.

What happens in a student Threat Risk Assessment?

All threatening behaviour by a student shall be reported to the principal who will activate the protocol for the initial response. Once the team has been activated, interviews may be held with the student, 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.