

September 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Re: Fair Notice Letter

The Board of Education has a responsibility to establish expectations of student conduct in schools as part of its governance role for the District. The Board believes that the responsibility for creating a safe, caring and orderly learning environment must be shared among students, staff and parents. To support these aims, the Board has established both a District Code of Conduct for Students and a Threat Assessment Protocol for all schools.

School staff are responsible for consistently supporting and applying the District's and their School's Codes of Conduct. This involves actively teaching and encouraging the positive expectations we hold for all students. Schools are to be free from discrimination due to race, religion, physical or mental disability, gender identity, or sexual orientation as set out in the BC Human Rights Code.

The Abbotsford School District is dedicated to the creation and maintenance of school environments where all students, parents, staff, and visitors feel safe. In keeping with this commitment, we have established district protocols in partnership with the Abbotsford Police for dealing with threats to members of the school community, and/or school facilities. Such protocols address threats and/or threatening behaviour both on and off campus. When knowledge of a significant threat is made, each school's Violence Threat/Risk Assessment Team will complete a threat assessment. The purpose of the threat assessment is to:

1. Determine if the threat is widespread and/or needs specialized intervention;
2. Ensure the safety of the individual(s) being threatened;
3. Determine the best way to support the high risk student who has made the threat so their behaviour does not become hurtful or destructive;
4. Act in a timely and fair manner as set out in the district procedure for Codes of Conduct.

There are situations when a child or youth shares information with their parents concerning a student in their school who is behaving in a threatening manner. As important members of our school community, you are encouraged to share such information with a staff member at your child's school. Should you, as a parent, be invited to attend a meeting to discuss safety concerns regarding your child, please be assured that the goal of this meeting is to primarily ensure safety.

With your assistance, we will ensure that students in our schools are safe as we create the most enabling learning environments for all students in our district.

Sincerely,



Kevin Godden
Superintendent of Schools