

How Sudbury Catholic District School Board Schools Will Respond When a Student Talks About Suicide

Our Commitment

The safety and well-being of students is our top priority. When a student expresses thoughts of suicide, school staff respond immediately, with compassion and care.

What Staff Do First

- Listen and stay with the student. No student is ever left alone if they say they might be unsafe.
- Take it seriously. All disclosures of suicide risk are responded to with care.
- Act quickly. Staff follow the school board's suicide response protocol, aligned with Ontario's Ministry of Education direction.

Who May Be Involved

- School staff (teachers, child & youth workers, educational assistants) provide immediate support.
- Principals/designates are notified right away.
- Mental health professionals (school social workers) become involved when available.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) are contacted as soon as possible.
- Community crisis teams, or emergency services.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Role

Parent(s)/guardian(s) are vital partners. If your child expresses suicidal thoughts at school, you can expect:

- A call from the school as soon as possible.
- Clear information about what your child has shared.
- An invitation to collaborate on a plan for safety and ongoing support.
- Guidance about community resources that can help.

If Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Cannot Be Reached

If we cannot reach parent(s)/guardian(s) and believe the child is at risk:

- We will attempt to connect with alternate emergency contacts on file.
- If necessary, crisis services or emergency services will be involved.
- Students are never released from school care until a safe transfer is arranged.

Aftercare and Follow-Up

- Schools work with families to plan a safe, supportive return for the student.
- A “safe adult” at school is identified for regular check-ins.
- Ongoing supports are offered through school and community resources.

Key Message for Families

- Talking about suicide is always taken seriously.
- Your child will be supported, never left alone, and connected to the right help.
- You will be contacted and included in the plan as soon as possible.
- Our goal is safety, compassion, and collaboration.

If you or your child are ever in immediate danger, call 911.

**If you need help right away but there is no immediate danger,
call the HSN Crisis Program at 705-675-4760**