

Success for Each Learner

Safe and Caring Schools Policy Support Plan

Student Support Services Unit

Yukon Education’s Safe and Caring Schools Policy is a commitment of the school community to plan, strategize and create a respectful, safe and nurturing educational environment for everyone.

Student Support Services is dedicated to supporting Yukon schools to implement this policy through specific services. These services are designed to foster safe and caring schools and promote positive mental health. Positive mental health is defined as “the capacity to feel, think and act in ways that enhance our ability to enjoy life and deal with the challenges we face.” Positive mental health is promoted by respecting the importance of culture, equity, social justice, interconnections and personal dignity.



“All students and school staff have the right to be treated in a fair, respectful and equitable manner in a safe school environment free from all forms of bullying, harassment and intimidation.”

- Safe and Caring Schools Policy



All School staff will have the opportunity to be trained to identify and respond to unhealthy social behaviours or bullying behaviours and provide positive redirection or interventions. School staff will also be supported to provide teaching and learning materials for student and families in healthy relationships, bullying behaviours and positive mental health.

These supports are available through:

1. Restorative approaches

Restorative practices are a set of approaches used to build healthy communities, repair harm, and restore relationships. The emphasis is on addressing harm and building relationships, rather than administering punishment.

Delivery Format: In-service training in restorative practices

Contact: Liza Manolis, School Community Consultant, 667-5130

2. Trauma Sensitive Classroom Strategies

This training will help educators and paraprofessionals understand the impacts of trauma on brain, behaviour and body. Participants will learn trauma informed strategies for supporting students who have endured traumatic events, as well as specific techniques to manage vicarious trauma. This training will be co-facilitated by a Yukon Education paraprofessional.

Delivery Format: One day training

Contact: Liza Manolis, School Community Consultant, 667-5130

3. Let's talk about suicide

Most people with thoughts of suicide don't truly want to die, but are struggling with the pain in their lives. This facilitated discussion will provide participants with information about suicide including risks, stigma, and what to do/not do to help someone with suicidal ideation. Participants will also learn how to know if someone is having thoughts of suicide.

Delivery Format: 1 hour in service (in school training)

Contact: Liza Manolis, School Community Consultant, 667-5130

4. Mental Health In-services

These in-services focus on training educators on a specific mental health disorder. Options: substance related disorders, mood disorders, anxiety and trauma related disorders, psychotic disorders, eating disorders, and deliberate self-injury. How to respond to a mental health crisis will also be covered in all sessions.

Delivery Format: 1 hour in-service per topic (in school training)
Contact: Liza Manolis, School Community Consultant, 667-5130

5. Critical Incident Stress Debriefing

Critical Incident Stress Debriefing is a specific, small group, supportive crisis intervention process. The purpose is to have those impacted by the traumatic event return to their daily routine more quickly, with less likelihood of experiencing post-traumatic stress symptoms.

Delivery Format: In person 24-72 hours (up to 30 days) following a Critical Incident
Contact: Liza Manolis, School Community Consultant, 667-5130

6. Violence Threat Risk Assessment Training (VTRA)

VTRA training is a comprehensive skill-based training with the purpose of teaching the multidisciplinary process of determining if a threat maker actually poses a risk to a target(s) they have threatened.

Delivery Format: Two day training workshop
Contact: Liza Manolis, School Community Consultant, 667-5130

7. Cyber-Safety Panel

An inter-agency panel designed to raise awareness about cyber-safety, online bullying and peer exploitation amongst guardians of school-age children.

Delivery Format: Presentation followed by Q&A and printed resource materials
Contact: Liza Manolis, School Community Consultant, 667-5130

8. Resources for building positive school climate

Continued support will be provided to schools in the development staff-led, peer support groups, including Gay Straight Alliances, Challenge Days, Positive Behaviour Support and Intervention, and other positive school climate building activities.

Contact: Stacey Burnard, Social Emotional Educational Psychologist 334-7636
Liza Manolis, School Community Consultant 667-5130

9. Access to resources on bullying awareness and strategies

Materials will be provided to schools to develop awareness of bullying, including Canadian Centre for Child Protection resources and services and curriculum materials and resources on positive mental health and healthy relationships

Contact: Liza Manolis, School Community Consultant, 667-5130
Stacey Burnard, Social Emotional Educational Psychologist, 334-7636

10. Grief and Loss Support

Continued support will be provided to schools following a Critical Incident.

Delivery Formats: Counselling, grief and loss room, reading materials.

Contact: Director Student Support Services 667-5986
Liza Manolis, School Community Consultant, 3667-5130
School Educational Psychologists

11. Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training (NVCI)

Training for staff designated in a written safety plan as a response team to work directly with a student. This training provides staff with an intervention plan that emphasizes de-escalating a situation and keeps staff and student safety as the paramount goal.

Delivery Format: One day (8 hour) training provided by Yukon Education NVCI Trainers
Contact: Karen Cambell, Manager Support Services 332-1703

12. Positive Behaviour Intervention Supports

PBIS provides a framework for schools to build whole school, classroom and non-classroom behavioural expectations and social scripts to enhance the social skills of the student population. It is designed to prevent chronic behavioural challenges and provide early intervention for children and youth displaying minor but repeated patterns of problem behaviour as well to enhance overall social skills of the student population.

Contact: Karen Campbell, Manager Support Services 332-1703
Alison Borden, PBIS Coach 336-0218

13. Self-Regulation

Self-regulation is the ability to manage your own energy states, emotions, behaviours and attention, in ways that are socially acceptable and help achieve positive goals. It provides a framework for delivering proactive interventions in the areas of physical/sensory, emotional and cognitive regulation, as well as social and prosocial classroom activities.

Contact: Stacey Burnard, Social Emotional Educational Psychologist, 334-7636

14. Database

A database with resources on bullying and violence prevention, substance use and addiction, mental health, physical health, sexual health and nutrition:

<http://www.yesnet.yk.ca/staffroom/pdf/14-15/cshdatabase.pdf>

Contact: Liza Manolis, School Community Consultant, 667-5130

15. Counsellor meetings

Monthly school counsellors meetings with a focus on resource sharing, case studies, and policy/procedure reviews

Contact: Liza Manolis, School Community Consultant, 667-5130

Partners and services

Yukon Education engages in interagency collaboration to support partnerships with other agencies and government departments through partnerships: Healthy Living Steering Committee, Violence Prevention Working Group and Complex Needs Committee.