



# SWAN VALLEY SCHOOL DIVISION

## ***VIOLENT THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT (VTRA)***

### ***FAIR NOTICE & PRACTICE***

#### **WHAT IS A THREAT?**

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

#### **A VIOLENT RISK THREAT ASSESSMENT WILL BE INITIATED FOR THE FOLLOWING BEHAVIOURS:**

- Serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill
- Verbal/written threats to harm or kill others– clear, direct and plausible
- Online threats to harm or kill others
- Possession of weapons (including replicas) or use other objects as weapons
- Bomb threats (making and/or detonating explosive devices)
- Fire setting
- Sexual intimidation or assault
- Gang-related intimidation and violence
- Or any other incident deemed serious enough to warrant a VTRA

#### **DUTY TO REPORT**

To keep our schools and communities safe, staff, parents, students and all community members must report all threat-related behaviors to the school principal.

#### **ALL THREATS MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, INVESTIGATED AND RESPONDED TO.**

For more information go to: Swan Valley School Division / Administrative Procedure Manual/ Safe Schools/ Violent Threat Risk Assessment.

#### **WHAT IS A VTRA TEAM?**

Each School has a VTRA team which is a multidisciplinary team. School teams may include: Principal, Resource Teacher, School Division Psychologist/ Counsellor/ other staff, RCMP and community agencies.

#### **THE PURPOSE OF THE VTRA IS.....**

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

#### **WHAT HAPPENS IN A VTRA?**

All threat making behavior(s) will be reported to the Principal who will activate the protocol for the initial response.

Once the investigation team has been activated, interviews may be held with student(s), the threat maker, parents, and staff to determine the risk and develop an appropriate response to the incident. Investigations can involve student services, RCMP, and other community agencies.

Furthermore VTRA can involve locker or personal property searches.

Intervention plans will be developed and shared with appropriate people as required. Threatening behavior can result in disciplinary actions.