

Ministry of Education

SAFETY AT YOUR SCHOOL

Sample Survey for Parents About Bullying

Name of school: _____

School ID: _____

Name of school board/authority: _____

Board ID: _____ Date: _____

Schools need to be safe places so that students can feel relaxed enough in them to learn.

The purpose of this survey is to find out about student safety and bullying at your child's school. Responses will be used by your child's school to provide baseline information to determine whether school programs are effective at reducing bullying and improving the school climate.

To ensure confidentiality, please do not put your name on this survey. We are interested in what parents, as a group, tell us.

Please return your completed survey to the school principal.

This survey is meant to be a sample. It may be used as is or adapted by schools or boards.

A Few Questions About You and Your Child . . .

1. What grade is your child in? Circle one: JK SK 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

(Note: If you have more than one child in the school system, please feel free to complete and submit a separate survey for each child.)

2. Is your child male or female? Male Female

3. What is your first language (the first one you learned to speak)? _____

4. Can you read and write easily in English? Very easily Easily Not very easily

5. How many years have you lived in Canada? All my life Part of my life: _____ years

Optional Question

Note that responding to the following question is voluntary.

*People sometimes think about themselves in terms of race, the colour of their skin, or the country where they or their parents were born. For the purposes of this survey, how do you describe yourself?** (Check more than one if appropriate.)

Aboriginal
(Inuit, Métis, North American Indian)

Arab/West Asian
(e.g., Armenian, Egyptian, Iranian, Lebanese, Moroccan)

Black
(e.g., African, Haitian, Jamaican, Somali)

Chinese

Filipino

Japanese

Korean

Latin American

South Asian

Southeast Asian

White
(Caucasian)

Other
(please describe) _____

I don't know

*The list of options provided is a standard classification used by Statistics Canada. (From the Statistics Canada website at www.statcan.ca/english/concepts/definitions/ethnicity01.htm. Date modified: 2003-06-17)

Circle one answer for each of the following questions.

	NEVER	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
6. Does your child feel safe at school?	0	1	2	3
7. Does your child feel safe on the way to and from school?	0	1	2	3
8. Does your child feel safe in your neighbourhood or community?	0	1	2	3

Bullying

There are lots of ways to bully, but in all cases students who bully other students want to hurt or upset them (it's not an accident). Usually they hurt or upset them repeatedly and have an advantage over them, such as being bigger. Sometimes a group of students will bully a student.

Types and Examples of Bullying

• Physical bullying

- hitting, pushing, shoving, slapping, kicking, spitting at, or beating others up
- damaging or stealing someone's property

• Verbal bullying

- name-calling, hurtful teasing
- insulting, humiliating, or threatening someone

• Social bullying

- excluding others from "the group" or from an activity
- gossiping or spreading rumours about others
- setting others up to look foolish
- making sure others don't associate with someone

• Electronic bullying

- sending e-mail or phone text messages or pictures to threaten someone or hurt their feelings; single out, embarrass, or make them look bad; or spread rumours or reveal secrets about them

• Racial/ethnocultural bullying

- treating others differently or badly because of their culture, their racial or ethnic background, or the colour of their skin
- saying negative things about someone's race, culture, ethnic background, or skin colour
- calling someone by a racially or ethnically derogatory term
- telling racist jokes

• Sexual bullying

- touching, pinching, or grabbing someone in a sexual way
- making crude comments or spreading rumours about someone's sexual behaviour
- calling someone "gay" or a "fag" or a "lesbian" or something similar to upset them
- making sexual gestures at someone

• Religion-based bullying

- treating others differently or badly because of their religion
- saying negative things about someone's religion

• Gender-based bullying

- leaving others out or treating them badly because they are a boy or a girl
- making sexist comments or jokes

When you answer the following questions, think about **THE PAST FOUR WEEKS**.

During the past four weeks ...

9. Has your child been bullied ...

(Circle one answer for each question.)

NOT ONCE
IN 4 WEEKS

ONCE OR
TWICE IN
4 WEEKS

EVERY
WEEK

MANY
TIMES
A WEEK

DON'T
KNOW

a) physically?

Examples: hit, pushed, shoved, slapped, kicked, spit at, or beaten up by others at school; had property stolen or damaged

0 1 2 3 4

b) verbally?

Examples: called names or teased hurtfully; insulted, humiliated, or threatened

0 1 2 3 4

c) socially?

Examples: excluded from a group or activity, set up to look foolish by someone, or gossiped about; had rumours spread about him or her

0 1 2 3 4

d) electronically?

Examples: threatened, embarrassed, singled out, or made to look bad; had his or her feelings hurt; had rumours spread or secrets revealed about him or her through e-mail or phone text messages or pictures

0 1 2 3 4

e) racially/ethnically?

Examples: treated differently or badly because of his or her race, culture, ethnic background, or skin colour; heard other students tell jokes or say negative things about his or her race, culture, ethnic background, or skin colour

0 1 2 3 4

f) sexually?

Examples: touched, pinched, or grabbed in a sexual way; called "gay" or a "fag" or a "lesbian" in a way meant to upset him or her; had sexual gestures made at him or her, or crude comments made or rumours spread about his or her sexual behaviour

0 1 2 3 4

g) on the basis of religion?

Examples: treated differently or badly because of his or her religion; had negative things said about his or her religion

0 1 2 3 4

h) on the basis of gender?

Examples: left out or treated badly because of being a boy or a girl; heard other students make sexist comments or jokes

0 1 2 3 4

	NOT IN 4 WEEKS	ONCE IN 4 WEEKS	ONCE OR TWICE IN 4 WEEKS	EVERY WEEK	MANY TIMES A WEEK	DON'T KNOW
10. Has your child stayed away from school to avoid being bullied?	0	1	2	3	4	
11. Has your child, on his/her own or as part of a group, bullied other students ... (Circle one answer for each question.)						
a) physically? <i>Examples: hit, pushed, shoved, slapped, kicked, spit at, or beaten someone up at school; damaged or stolen another student's property</i>	0	1	2	3	4	
b) verbally? <i>Examples: called another student names or teased them hurtfully; insulted, humiliated, or threatened another student</i>	0	1	2	3	4	
c) socially? <i>Examples: excluded someone from a group or an activity, made someone look foolish, gossiped or spread rumours about someone</i>	0	1	2	3	4	
d) electronically? <i>Examples: electronically bullied someone by sending e-mail or phone text messages or pictures to threaten, embarrass, single them out, hurt their feelings, or spread rumours or reveal secrets about them</i>	0	1	2	3	4	
e) racially/ethnoculturally? <i>Examples: treated others differently or badly because of their race, culture, ethnic background, or skin colour; told jokes or said negative things about someone's race, culture, ethnic background, or skin colour</i>	0	1	2	3	4	
f) sexually? <i>Examples: touched, pinched, or grabbed another student in a sexual way; made sexual gestures at someone; called another student "gay" or a "fag" or a "lesbian" in a way meant to upset him or her; made crude comments or spread rumours about another student's sexual behaviour</i>	0	1	2	3	4	
g) on the basis of religion? <i>Examples: treated others differently or badly because of their religion; said negative things about someone's religion</i>	0	1	2	3	4	
h) on the basis of gender? <i>Examples: treated someone differently or badly because they are a boy or a girl; made sexist comments or jokes</i>	0	1	2	3	4	

The next questions asks about **where, when, and how often** bullying occurs in and near your child's school and about **how people respond** to this kind of behaviour.

12. Where and how often does bullying occur? If a location is not applicable to your child's school, do not respond.	NOT ONCE IN 4 WEEKS	ONCE OR TWICE IN 4 WEEKS	EVERY WEEK	EVERY DAY	DON'T KNOW
a) Classrooms	1	2	3	4	5
b) Hallways	1	2	3	4	5
c) School entrances and/or exits	1	2	3	4	5
d) Library	1	2	3	4	5
e) Computer rooms	1	2	3	4	5
f) Gymnasium	1	2	3	4	5
g) Change room or locker room	1	2	3	4	5
h) Washrooms	1	2	3	4	5
i) School bus	1	2	3	4	5
j) Playground	1	2	3	4	5
k) On the way to and from school	1	2	3	4	5
l) Lunchroom/eating area/cafeteria	1	2	3	4	5
m) Parking lot	1	2	3	4	5
n) Areas off school property, but close to school	1	2	3	4	5
o) Areas off school property where students smoke	1	2	3	4	5
p) On field trips	1	2	3	4	5
q) Other (please specify) _____	1	2	3	4	5

13. To your knowledge, has your child stayed away from certain classrooms or areas of the school to avoid being bullied?	NEVER	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
0	1	2	3	

14. When is your child most at risk of being bullied?	NEVER	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
a) Before school	0	1	2	3
b) During classes	0	1	2	3
c) Between classes	0	1	2	3
d) During break periods (spares, lunch, recess)	0	1	2	3
e) After school	0	1	2	3
f) On school field trips/during school extracurricular activities	0	1	2	3
g) On weekends	0	1	2	3

15. How often do adults at your child's school (e.g., teachers, principal, vice-principal, support staff) ...	NEVER	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
a) notice bullying?	0	1	2	3
b) try to stop bullying?	0	1	2	3
c) ignore bullying?	0	1	2	3
d) talk openly about bullying?	0	1	2	3
e) make excuses for those who bully?	0	1	2	3
f) support those who are bullied?	0	1	2	3
g) discipline those who bully?	0	1	2	3
h) discipline those who are bullied?	0	1	2	3
i) listen to both sides of the story?	0	1	2	3
j) bully students themselves?	0	1	2	3
k) bully other adults?	0	1	2	3

16. Do adults at your child's school contact you if your child ...	NEVER	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
a) bullies another child?	0	1	2	3
b) is a victim of bullying?	0	1	2	3

	NEVER	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
17. How often are rules related to conduct and behaviour enforced at your child’s school?	0	1	2	3
18. Are the rules related to conduct and behaviour fairly enforced?	0	1	2	3
19. If a student complains to an adult about bullying at your child’s school, how often is something done about it?	0	1	2	3
20. Does your child’s school invite parents to participate in programs that prevent bullying?	0	1	2	3
21. Does your child’s school communicate information about its bullying prevention programs and policies?	0	1	2	3
22. Overall, how would you rate the efforts of adults at your child’s school to make it a safe place?	VERY POOR	POOR	GOOD	VERY GOOD

Is there anything else that you want to tell us about safety at your child’s school?

If your child is having difficulty with other students at school,
please know that we are here to help.

You can talk to a counsellor, a teacher, or the principal.
We want to help . . . contact us.

**THANK YOU
FOR COMPLETING
THIS SURVEY.**

Your answers will help us make your child's school
safer for all its students.