

Fair Notice: Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO)

Pembina Trails School Division is committed to creating and maintaining school environments where students, staff, parents and community members feel safe, supported and valued. Our approach is rooted in trauma-informed and inclusive practices, meaning that behaviours are seen in context and responded to with care, safety and support. Schools cannot ignore behaviours that may pose a risk to safety.

What Behaviours Initiate an Assessment of Risk to Others?

An ARTO will be initiated when behaviours include, but are not limited to:

- Serious violence or violence with intent to harm.
- Verbal, written, drawn or gestured threats.
- Social media/technology generated threats to intimidate or harm others.
- Possession of weapons.
- Making and using explosives, smoking devices.
- Bomb threats.
- Fire setting.
- Sexual intimidation or assault.
- Ongoing pervasive and targeted bullying and/or harassment.
- Hate incidents motivated by factors including, but not limited to, race, culture, religion and/or sexual and gender diversity.
- Other worrisome behaviours that cause concern for the safety of the individual or others

Duty to Report

To keep our school communities safe and caring, staff, parents, students and all community members must report threats and other worrisome behaviours.

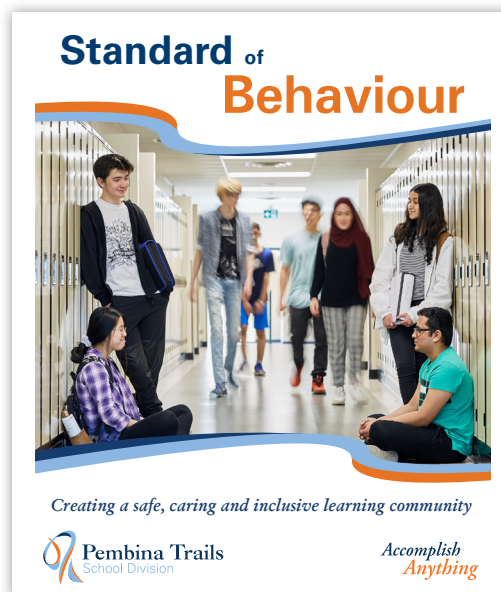
What is a Threat or Worrisome Behaviour?

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

A **worrisome behaviour** is any action, communication or gesture that causes concern about a person's safety or the safety of others, even if it does not meet the level of a direct threat.

Both **threats and worrisome behaviours** will be taken seriously, assessed, and responded to with the goal of ensuring safety and providing appropriate supports.

For more information, please review the [Standards of Behaviour for the Pembina Trails School Division](#):
www.pembinatrails.ca



What is an ARTO Team?

Each school has an ARTO Team that is multidisciplinary. The team may include:

- Principal and/or Vice-Principal.
- Student Services team members (school counsellor, resource teacher).
- School Clinicians (social work, psychology).
- Inclusive Support Services Consultants.
- School Resource officer.
- Other relevant professionals as needed.



What is the Purpose of ARTO?

- To ensure the safety of all individuals.
- Begin to understand the factors that contribute to the Individual of Concern's (IOC's) threatening or high-risk behaviour.
- View the IOC as in need of intervention and support rather than discipline.
- Be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the IOC. It may include disciplinary action but will include appropriate supports to aid the IOC in developing and using more appropriate strategies.
- Promotes the emotional and physical safety of all.

*****It is NOT a disciplinary tool or response.*****

What Happens During an ARTO?

When a threat or worrisome behaviour is reported, school leadership will activate the ARTO process for an initial response. Once the team is activated, information may be gathered from the individual of concern, parents/guardians, staff and others as appropriate.

The team's focus is to assess risk in order to plan for safety and provide supportive, risk-reducing interventions. Plans are shared with parents, staff and students as required, with the goal of building a safe and caring environment for everyone.

Participation in the Process:

It is important for all parties to engage in the ARTO process. However, if a parent/guardian or individual of concern is reluctant to participate, the process will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring learning environment.

Privacy and Personal Information

Personal information collected during the ARTO process will comply with the provincial Protecting and Supporting Children (Information Sharing) Act. This Act allows government departments, organizations and others who provide services to at-risk and vulnerable children to collect, use and share personal information, including personal health information, about supported children and their parents or legal guardians. Personal information may only be shared under the Act if it is believed by the service provider to be in the child's best interests.

This authority to share personal information is in addition to that already found in The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) and The Personal Health Information Act (PHIA).