



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 50 HAIDA GWAI BOARD POLICY MANUAL

Policy H.3 (Formerly 4660)

Policy Subject: SUICIDE INTERVENTION

April 2009

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POLICY

The Board recognizes that school personnel will, from time to time, become aware or receive reports of pupils contemplating or attempting suicide. The Board, in placing the primary focus on the safety and care of students, endorses appropriate supportive procedures for dealing with potentially suicidal pupils.

The Board Recognizes that school personnel cannot provide the intensive therapeutic follow-up required by suicidal students and their families.

PROCEDURE

Principal informed of possible student crisis:



Principal consults School Counsellor where available



Counsellor or Principal completes an initial risk assessment and follows the suicide intervention guidelines below.

General Guidelines for determining severity of risk

Low to Moderate:

- Jokes about suicide or death
- Drug/alcohol use, or increasing use of
- Giving away possessions
- Risk taking behaviours
- Drop in school attendance, grades
- Change in relationships
- Severe mood swings
- Preoccupation with death (ie art or literature)
- Change in personal care, weight, energy or appearance
- Withdrawal

High:

- Articulated plan: Is thinking of killing self, has planned out the weapon/means, location, and/or time
- Access to lethal means, i.e. pills, guns, etc.
- Close friend or relative has “modelled” suicide

The risk severity is linked to having a plan, the means to do it, and a short time frame in which the plan will occur.

Suicide Intervention Guidelines
For School Personnel
School District No. 50 Haida Gwaii

Name _____ School _____

Date of Birth _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Phone _____

<p>(Low)</p> <p>Limited Risk at This Time</p> <p>No immediate danger</p>	<p>(Moderate)</p> <p>Some Perceived Degree of Risk, but</p> <p>No immediate danger</p>	<p>❖ High Risk (see notes)</p> <p>Immediate Perceived Risk and Danger</p> <p>Should Not Leave School Alone</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Assure the student of process.	<input type="checkbox"/> Assure the student of the process. Explain severity of situation. <input type="checkbox"/> Obtain a commitment from the student to work with the interviewer to prevent suicide	<input type="checkbox"/> Assure the student of the process. Explain the severity of the situation.
<input type="checkbox"/> Inform administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Inform administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Inform administration
<input type="checkbox"/> Contact parent/guardian, family doctor if possible, and offer outside mental health/therapist for possible avenues of support** (see notes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Contact parent/guardian, doctor** (see notes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Contact parent/guardian** (see notes)
<input type="checkbox"/> Acquaint student and parent with the Help Line for Children phone number. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide support materials. <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage student to seek assistance. <input type="checkbox"/> Continue to monitor student behaviour and offer support	<input type="checkbox"/> Where possible, notify and mental health services/therapists who are already involved with the student. <input type="checkbox"/> Proceed with a referral for further assessment and/or consultation to Mental Health. <input type="checkbox"/> Develop intervention plan in conjunction with parent/guardian and student.	<input type="checkbox"/> Where possible, notify and mental health services/therapists who are already involved with the student. <input type="checkbox"/> Call local Mental Health office immediately for a telephone consultation and indicate the urgency. If Mental Health counsellor is not available contact the General Hospital for consultation. <input type="checkbox"/> Phone for police and ambulance assistance and emergency transport to

		hospital if necessary to ensure safety. <input type="checkbox"/> Develop intervention plan in conjunction with parent/guardian and student.
<input type="checkbox"/> Document the incident.	<input type="checkbox"/> Document the incident.	<input type="checkbox"/> Document the incident and provide documentation to the physician.
<input type="checkbox"/> One week follow-up	<input type="checkbox"/> One week follow-up	<input type="checkbox"/> One week follow-up

❖ Notes: If there has been an attempted suicide resulting in a medical emergency, arrange for transport directly to the hospital. Call the local hospital emergency room and provide all of the pertinent background information.

❖ Students should not be left alone if an imminent threat of suicide is assessed.

**Contact a parent or guardian to inform him/her of the potential seriousness of the situation and that immediate intervention is required. If the parents cannot be reached, the student can be referred to an outside mental health agency without parental permission provided that they are informed at the earliest possible opportunity. If the parent(s) refuses to allow a referral and there is concern about the student's safety, the Ministry of Children and Family Development should be involved and the student's safety ensured.

If contact is not made with the parent/guardian prior to referral for assessment or hospitalization of the student, another staff member should continue trying to reach the parent/guardian. Recommend to the parent(s)/guardian(s) that they contact the hospital as soon as possible.

Consultation with other counsellors and/or other agency personnel may occur at any or several stages. It is also important to note that while the steps can usually be followed sequentially, the situation will determine what actions need to be taken first.

Confidentiality: In the event of a suicidal attempt, the best interests and safety of the child are of paramount concern. Therefore, the normal adherence to confidentiality with respect to notification and reporting shall not apply to suicidal students. (Section 33 of Freedom of Information Protection of Privacy Act)

Contact Numbers:

Ministry of Children and Family Development

Masset 626-5481

Port Clements 557-4478

Sandspit 637-5403

Village of Queen Charlotte 559-4403

Haida Family Services 559-8400

General Hospital

Masset 626-4702

Village of Queen Charlotte 559-4302

Help Line for Children 310-1234

Mental Health 559-8765

Ambulance 1-800-461-9911

RCMP

Masset and Port Clements 626-3991 Queen Charlotte, Sandspit, and Skidegate 559-4421