

Engaging Our Children to Prevent Gang Involvement

In light of recent tragic events in our community, we recognize this feels like a difficult time. We are encouraging all families to check in with their children and remain aware of any challenges or concerns they may be facing.

If you have concerns about your child's safety or activities, your school community is here to help. Teachers, principals and vice-principals, counselors, safe school liaisons, and other community partners can provide insights and support as needed.

Surrey Schools encourages all families to take advantage of the district's anti-gang programs listed below and watch for warning signs and behaviours.

Warning Signs of negative peer group involvement

Here are some common warning signs parents/ guardians can monitor for if they suspect their child may be shifting into a concerning pattern of behaviour:

- Non-attendance issues
- Academic achievement drops
- Extreme changes in attitude
- Staying out late with new friends
- A new-found sense of secrecy
- Acquiring possessions that parents did not pay for
- A new job with no proof of employment (ie. no paycheque, etc).

It can be challenging to determine if your child is becoming involved with illicit and/or possible gang activities. Please know there are numerous resources available to provide guidance and assistance.

Resources: Talk with your child to keep them safe

- [Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of BC \(CFSEU\) End Gang Life website](#): A site with resources illustrating the myths and realities of gang life, booklets on youth and gangs and information on gang intervention and gang exiting.
- ERASE: [Gangs and violence prevention - Province of British Columbia](#): **Free training and conversation supports**, including erase Family Sessions (free training to help adults support students) and a "Have a conversation" guide for talking to children about unfamiliar topics.

Resources: Contact district anti-gang supports for students and parents

- [Wraparound Program \(WRAP\)](#): The Surrey Wraparound Program (WRAP) is a partnership between the Surrey School District and the Surrey Police Service. The program's objective is to positively attach youth to school, their community and the home by building a trusting and positive relationship. Parents, caregivers and/or guardians are included in goal setting while assisting the program's objective in building a positive lifestyle and self-worth for youth.
- [Safe Schools Liaisons](#): Through the district's Safe Schools department, each secondary school has a liaison dedicated to helping with safety related issues. They can help connect youth in need with specific safety resources or just be there to talk to if there is something bothering them.
- [The Surrey Police Parent Helpline](#): (604-599-7800): Provides assistance to parents who are concerned about their children becoming involved in illegal activities.

Resources: Report any concerning incidents in your community anonymously

- [Protecting Surrey Schools Together](#): (PSST) A Surrey Schools website with dedicated learning and awareness resources on topics such as bullying, discrimination, gangs, substance use, and online safety. This page is a helpful tool for students and parents to report any suspicious or concerning behaviour.
- [ERASE](#) is a Ministry of Education & Child Care resources for building safe, caring and inclusive school communities also has anonymous online reporting tools.