



TALKING TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT SAFETY AND WELLBEING DISCUSSION GUIDE

Prepared by the

West Clermont Citizens Advisory Commission

www.westcler.org/cac



TALKING TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT SAFETY AND WELLBEING

At West Clermont, ensuring that all students can attend school in an environment that is safe, secure, and supportive has always been our top priority. With the recent rise in school safety-related incidents, school safety has been the subject of increased focus both inside and outside of school communities.

As we have talked with students, staff, and families over the last several years, a consistent theme has been that **the adults in our community are looking for ways to talk with their students and children about safety and security at school**. While we as parents, guardians, and staff know that talking to our next generation of leaders and citizens about safety and security is important, **we're not always sure where to start**.

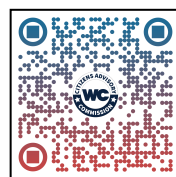
The **West Clermont Citizens Advisory Commission (CAC)** has answered the call by researching and creating the tool you hold in your hands. The goal of this project has been to create an **easy-to-use resource** for both families and staff to engage in meaningful and important conversations about school safety and wellbeing with their children and students.

There are two parts to this tool:

- **A Handy Discussion Guide** - This page is a list of thoughtful questions that you can use as you talk with your children and students. The questions are in no particular order and you can pick and choose how and when to use them. We encourage you to bring up these questions at ideal times and to make this a natural part of your ongoing dialogue with your children and students. It is more effective to spread the questions out over a longer period of time rather than sitting down and going through all of them in one sitting.
- **An In-Depth Survey** - This survey is a more formal way to gather insight about your child's experience and feelings on different aspects of school safety. While sharing your kids' responses with the district is entirely optional, we would love to learn more about the trends across our district. Our goal will be to take your responses, look for themes and areas for improvement, and then use your feedback to guide our ongoing work around these topics.

Please note: SHARING RESPONSES WITH WEST CLERMONT IS NOT REQUIRED. However, if you choose to submit your responses, please DO NOT include the names of students or school staff.

To submit your responses online, go to <https://bit.ly/WCCACSafety> or scan this QR code with your smartphone:



This **Talking to Your Kids About Safety and Wellbeing** parent guide creates another link between families and our schools. We urge parents and community leaders to take some time to complete this activity with your children. Our hope is that it sparks important, meaningful, and ongoing conversations on this very important topic. While the questions are written for 5th–12th grade students, you may choose to rephrase them to include younger students. We also invite you to share this activity with the people in your professional and social networks, including: civic, social, and faith-based organizations.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY OR IMMEDIATE NEED

If your kid(s) shares an issue that needs to be addressed immediately, you can do the following:

- ▶ Contact a building administrator by accessing our website (<https://westcler.org/schools>)
- ▶ Complete the Harassment, Intimidation, Hazing & Bullying Report Form (<https://westcler.org/incidentreport>)
- ▶ Call the Safer Ohio Tip Line at 1-844-723-3764
- ▶ Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988

TALKING TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT SAFETY AND WELLBEING

DISCUSSION GUIDE QUESTIONS

1. How safe do you feel in the following places at or around your school building?
2. Over the last year, have you had something taken from you at school or a school-related activity without your permission or knowledge? *Where did this happen? Has this happened more than once? Did you report this to an adult at your school?*
3. Over the last year, has someone taken money or things of value directly from you by using force, weapons, or threats at school? *Where did this happen? Has this happened more than once? Did you report this to an adult at your school?*
4. Over the last year, has someone threatened to physically hurt you at school, on your way to or from school, or at a school event? *Where did this happen? Has this happened more than once? Did the threat(s) result in your being physically harmed? Did you report this to an adult at your school?*
5. Over the last year, has someone threatened you using words (not weapons or threat of physical violence) at school, on your way to or from school, or at a school event? *Where did this happen? Has this happened more than once? Did you report this to an adult at your school?*
6. Over the last year, has another West Clermont student used social media, text messages, or email to threaten or emotionally harm you in some way? *Has this happened more than once? Did you report this to an adult at your school?*
7. Over the last year, have you seen a student carrying a gun, knife, or other weapon at school or on the way to or from school? *Where did you observe this? What kind of weapon did you observe? Has this happened more than once? Did you report this to an adult at your school?*
8. Over the last year, have you seen students participate in violent activity (such as fighting) with the purpose of hurting each other physically? *Where did you observe this? Has this happened more than once? Did you report this to an adult at your school?*
9. In your experience, do adults at the school, especially teachers, principals, and administrators, take action when a safety concern or issue is reported to them by a student?
10. If you have at any time in the past reported a safety concern or issue to a teacher, school administrator, or other adult working at your school, did the situation improve?
11. Are there one or more teachers, administrators, or adult staff members at your school that you feel comfortable talking to about the safety issues mentioned in this survey?
12. After considering the questions in this survey, how would you rate your school in terms of overall safety: very safe, safe most of the time, sometimes not safe, seldom safe, or never safe?
13. How strongly do you AGREE or DISAGREE with the following statements?
 - The teachers and staff at my school care about me.
 - I have many friends at my school.
 - I am comfortable sharing the things that happen at school with my family.
 - There is at least one adult at my school I would feel comfortable talking to if I were upset.
 - Overall, I would recommend my school to other students and their families.

TALKING TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT SAFETY AND WELLBEING DISCUSSION GUIDE

FEELING SAFE: Places, Events, Activities

The purpose of this question is to ask how safe your child feels at school and other school events and activities. Start by asking them to think about each of these places and then tell you how safe they feel there. Encourage them to select one of the response choices that range from “I ALWAYS feel safe” to “I NEVER feel safe.” Encourage them to tell you about their feelings as you note their responses. If your child has not been to one of these places or events, just focus on the ones they have.

1. How safe do you feel in the following places at or around your school building?

	ALWAYS	MOST OF THE TIME	SOMETIMES DO NOT	DO NOT MOST OF THE TIME	NEVER	N/A
<i>In the classroom</i>						
<i>In the hallways</i>						
<i>At the cafeteria</i>						
<i>In the restrooms</i>						
<i>In the locker rooms (if applicable)</i>						
<i>On the school grounds</i>						
<i>On the bus (if applicable)</i>						
<i>At before-school or after-school activities</i>						
<i>At school athletic events (plays, concerts, etc.)</i>						

INDIRECT PERSONAL PROPERTY LOSS AT SCHOOL

Having something stolen from you when you are not looking can be disturbing. Start by asking if your child has had something taken from them without their permission. Then ask the follow-up questions to learn more about their experience.

2. Over the last year, have you had something taken from you at school or a school-related activity without your permission or knowledge?
 - Yes
 - No

Follow-up questions if your child answered yes to the previous question.

3. Where did this happen? (Mark all that apply)

- In the classroom
- In the hallways
- At the cafeteria
- In the restrooms
- In the locker rooms (if applicable)
- On the school grounds
- On the bus (if applicable)
- At before-school or after-school activities
- At school athletic events
- At other school events (plays, concerts, etc.)
- Other (please describe)

4. Has this happened more than once?

- Yes
- No

5. Did you report this to a teacher, school administrator, or other adult working at your school?

- Yes
- No

DIRECT PERSONAL PROPERTY LOSS AT SCHOOL

This question asks about when someone confronts you to steal your belongings. It can be traumatic for anyone, regardless of age. This might be rare at West Clermont, but it is still an important topic to talk about with your child.

6. Over the last year, has someone taken money or things of value directly from you by using force, weapons, or threats at school?

- Yes
- No

Follow-up questions if your child answered yes to the previous question.

7. Where did this happen? (Mark all that apply)

- In the classroom
- In the hallways
- At the cafeteria
- In the restrooms
- In the locker rooms (if applicable)
- On the school grounds
- On the bus (if applicable)
- At before-school or after-school activities
- At school athletic events
- At other school events (plays, concerts, etc.)
- Other (please describe)

8. Has this happened more than once?

- Yes
- No

9. Did you report this to a teacher, school administrator, or other adult working at your school?

- Yes
- No

DIRECT PHYSICAL THREAT

This question asks your child if they have ever felt unsafe at school or a school event because someone has threatened to hurt them. For now, we are asking about words spoken face-to-face. We will ask about text, email, and social media in a different question.

10. Over the last year, has someone threatened to physically hurt you at school, on your way to or from school, or at a school event?

- Yes
- No

11. Where did this happen? (Mark all that apply)

- In the classroom
- In the hallways
- At the cafeteria
- In the restrooms
- In the locker rooms (if applicable)
- On the school grounds
- On the bus (if applicable)
- At before-school or after-school activities
- At school athletic events
- At other school events (plays, concerts, etc.)
- Other (please describe)

12. Has this happened more than once?

- Yes
- No

13. Did the threat(s) result in your being physically harmed?

- Yes
- No

14. Did you report this to a teacher, school administrator, or other adult working at your school?

- Yes
- No

VERBAL THREATS

In this question, "threats" mean harassment through words without the use of weapons or threat of physical harm. We are asking about words spoken face-to-face. We will ask about text, email, and social media in a different question.

15. Over the last year, has someone threatened you using words (not weapons or threat of physical violence) at school, on your way to or from school, or at a school event?

- Yes
- No

Follow-up questions if your child answered yes to the previous question.

16. Where did this happen? (Mark all that apply)

- In the classroom
- In the hallways
- At the cafeteria
- In the restrooms
- In the locker rooms (if applicable)
- On the school grounds
- On the bus (if applicable)
- At before-school or after-school activities
- At school athletic events
- At other school events (plays, concerts, etc.)
- Other (please describe)

17. Has this happened more than once?

- Yes
- No

18. Did you report this to a teacher, school administrator, or other adult working at your school?

- Yes
- No

HARMFUL ACTS USING SOCIAL MEDIA AND OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS

This question asks your child if they have been harassed through text, emails, or social media. The harassment could be anything from mean words to actual threats of physical harm.

19. Over the last year, has another West Clermont student used social media, text messages, or email to threaten or emotionally harm you in some way?

- Yes
- No

Follow-up questions if your child answered yes to the previous question.

20. Has this happened more than once?

- Yes
- No

21. Did you report this to a teacher, school administrator, or other adult working at your school?

- Yes
- No

WEAPONS IN SCHOOL

Keeping weapons out of our schools is of utmost concern to the West Clermont School District. Please help us by asking your child if they have seen another student with a gun, knife, or any other type of weapon.

22. Over the last year, have you seen a student carrying a gun, knife, or other weapon at school or on the way to or from school?

- Yes
- No

Follow-up questions if your child answered yes to the previous question.

23. Where did this happen? (Mark all that apply)

- In the classroom
- In the hallways
- At the cafeteria
- In the restrooms
- In the locker rooms (if applicable)
- On the school grounds
- On the bus (if applicable)
- At before-school or after-school activities
- At school athletic events
- At other school events (plays, concerts, etc.)
- Other (please describe)

24. What kind of weapon did you observe?

- Gun
- Knife
- Other (please describe)

25. Has this happened more than once?

- Yes
- No

26. Did you report this to a teacher, school administrator, or other adult working at your school?

- Yes
- No

FIGHTS IN SCHOOL

Violence of any kind has no place in our school district. Please ask your child to tell you if they have ever experienced or witnessed violent activity at school. This might include fights or any other time a student has intentionally hurt another in any way.

27. Over the last year, have you seen students participate in violent activity (such as fighting) with the purpose of hurting each other physically?

- Yes
- No

Follow-up questions if your child answered yes to the previous question.

28. Where did this happen? (Mark all that apply)

- In the classroom
- In the hallways
- At the cafeteria
- In the restrooms
- In the locker rooms (if applicable)
- On the school grounds
- On the bus (if applicable)
- At before-school or after-school activities
- At school athletic events
- At other school events (plays, concerts, etc.)
- Other (please describe)

29. Has this happened more than once?

- Yes
- No

30. Did you report this to a teacher, school administrator, or other adult working at your school?

- Yes
- No

SCHOOL LEADERS AND TEACHERS TAKING ACTION

This question asks if your child feels protected by the responsible adults around them, while attending school or events. Do they have faith in those adults to take the action to keep them safe?

31. In your experience, do adults at the school, especially teachers, principals, and administrators, take action when a safety concern or issue is reported to them by a student?
- They take action every time
 - They usually take action
 - They sometimes take action
 - They usually do not take action
 - They never take action
 - I am not sure if they take action or not
32. If you have at any time in the past reported a safety concern or issue to a teacher, school administrator, or other adult working at your school, did the situation improve?
- Yes
 - Somewhat
 - No
 - Not sure
 - I have never reported a safety concern or issue

YOUR COMFORT LEVEL AND TRUST

For this question we are asking your child to think, before any safety concerns, about which adults they trust the most to keep them safe at school. We are not asking you to tell us the names. The question is meant to get your student to think about who this might be ahead of time and tell you who they would go to at school if they needed help. This may help them to feel more comfortable at school and eliminate delays in reporting safety issues.

33. Are there one or more teachers, administrators, or adult staff members at your school that you feel comfortable talking to about the safety issues mentioned in this survey?
- Yes
 - No

RATE YOUR SCHOOL: OVERALL SAFETY

We hope you have found this activity helpful. We hope that it has helped your child think about their safety at school and share those feelings with you. This last question asks them to rate their school's safety overall.

34. After considering the questions in this survey, how would you rate your school in terms of overall safety?
- My school is VERY SAFE
 - My school is SAFE MOST OF THE TIME
 - My school is SOMETIMES NOT SAFE
 - My school is SELDOM SAFE
 - My school is NEVER SAFE

35. After considering the questions in this survey, how would you rate your school in terms of overall safety?

	STRONGLY AGREE	MOSTLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	MOSTLY DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
<i>The teachers and staff at my school care about me.</i>						
<i>I have many friends at my school.</i>						
<i>I am comfortable sharing the things that happen at school with my family.</i>						
<i>There is at least one adult at my school I would feel comfortable talking to if I were upset.</i>						
<i>Overall, I would recommend my school to other students and their families.</i>						

YOUR FINAL THOUGHTS

Please ask your child to think about all the safety issues just discussed and talk about anything that we might have missed.

36. Your thoughts and opinions matter at West Clermont. If there is anything you would like to share on the topic of school safety, please go to <https://bit.ly/WCCACSAafety>. (Please DO NOT write your name, email address, include ANY contact information, or the names of students, teachers, or school staff in your response.)

YOUR SCHOOL AND GRADE

These questions are important if you choose to share the information you have collected from your child with the district. It will allow the district to identify problems specific to each level and environment without identifying the names of individuals. This question is intended to help protect the anonymity of your child and their peers, while still identifying problems that need solutions.

If you have more than one child in the district, we encourage you to discuss these questions with each of them individually, in order to isolate the needs specific to each grade level and environment.

37. What school do you currently attend?

- West Clermont High School
- West Clermont Middle School
- Amelia Elementary School
- Clough Pike Elementary School
- Holly Hill Elementary School
- Merwin Elementary School
- Summerside Elementary School
- Willowville Elementary School
- Withamsville-Tobasco Elementary School

38. What grade are you in? (Circle one.)

- Kindergarten 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th