



SACRED HEART STUDENT ANTI BULLYING POLICY

SACRED HEART SCHOOL IS A CHILD SAFE SCHOOL

Definition:

Bullying is the exertion of power by one person over another, which makes another person feel embarrassed, offended, upset, devalued, degraded, afraid, frustrated or angry. It is unwelcome, unreciprocated, uninvited and usually repeated. It is behaviour that breaches proper and appropriate conduct for students.

Types of Bullying include: Physical, Verbal/Written, Gesture, Extortion, Exclusion, Cyber-bullying and Sexual.

Rationale:

At Sacred Heart we are committed to providing a caring atmosphere of Christian love and understanding for the entire school community. All members of this school community are treated with respect for their history, beliefs, culture and individuality, therefore bullying will not be tolerated.

Aim:

- To reinforce within the school community what bullying is, and the fact that it is unacceptable.
- Everyone within the school community to be alert to signs and evidence of bullying and to have a responsibility to report it to staff whether as observer or victim.
- To ensure that all reported incidents of bullying are followed up appropriately and that support is given to both victims and perpetrators.
- To seek parental and peer-group support and co-operation at all times.

Implementation:

Parents, teachers, students and the community will be aware of the school's position on bullying.

A. Primary Prevention:

- Community awareness and input relating to bullying, its characteristics and the school's programs and response.
- Provide programs that promote resilience, life and social skills, assertiveness, conflict resolution and problem solving. e.g. Emotion Coaching program
- A 'bullying' survey and yard survey will be administered as required.
- Each classroom teacher to clarify the school policy on bullying at the start of each year.
- Anti-bullying messages and strategies included in curriculum e.g. Religious Education classes, Social Justice, Inclusion and Emotion Coaching programs
- Staff and students to promote the philosophy of 'No Put Downs'.
- Electives and structured activities available to students at recess and lunch breaks e.g. Student Led Activities

B. Early Intervention:

- Promote children reporting bullying incidents involving themselves or others.
- Regular instruction from classroom teachers and principal reminding students to report incidents of bullying.
- Parents encouraged to contact school if they become aware of a problem.
- Acknowledgement of positive behaviour and student led resolution of problems.

C. Intervention:

- Once identified each bully, victim and witness will meet with the teacher/principal. All incidents or allegations of bullying will be fully investigated and documented.
- Incidents will be dealt with confidentially and as soon as possible with appropriate action taken.
- Any interviews with teachers/principal/parents will be recorded and archived.
- Students identified by others as bullies will be informed of allegations.
- Both bullies and victims will be offered support.
- Parents will be informed of student bullying. Consequences will be consistent with the school's Student Code of Conduct.

D. Post Violation:

- Consequences for students will be individually based and may involve:-
 - exclusion from class
 - exclusion from yard
 - withdrawal of privileges
 - ongoing counselling from an appropriate agency for both victim and bully
 - school suspension
- Reinforcement of positive behaviours.
- Classroom Meetings to follow up.
- Support Structures put in place.
- Ongoing monitoring of identified bullies.
- Acknowledgement of appropriate behaviours

It is our goal to provide comparable educational experiences for all students, those with a disability and those for whom there is not a diagnosis.

Reasonable adjustments which balance the interests of all parties affected will be implemented.

Judgements about what is reasonable may change over time.