



ANTIBULLYING POLICY

Rationale

St Peter's School seeks to be a place of acceptance, affirmation and justice. We believe bullying strikes at the very basis of these values and prevents students from reaching for excellence in every dimension of life. The students are entitled to receive their education free from humiliation, oppression and abuse.

Supporting Statements

Bullying behaviour is defined as intentional, repeated behaviour by an individual or group of individuals that causes distress, hurt or undue pressure.

Bullying involves the abuse of power in relationships. Bullying involves all forms of harassment (including sex, race, disability, sexual orientation), humiliation, domination and intimidation of others,

Bullying behaviour can be:

- Verbal eg. name calling, teasing, abuse, putdowns, sarcasm, insults, threats
- Physical eg. hitting, punching, kicking, scratching, tripping, spitting
- Social eg. ignoring, excluding, ostracising, alienating, making inappropriate gestures
- Psychological eg. spreading rumours, 'dirty looks', hiding or damaging possessions, malicious SMS and email messages, inappropriate use of camera phones.

Anti-Bullying Plan

When working with the students in the classrooms or as we move around the school or when on playground duty, staff will –

- Watch for any early signs of distress in the students
- Report all incidents or suspected incidents to the Principal
- Offer the victim immediate support and help
- Use all children as a positive resource in countering bullying by providing strategies for them to use and take time to discuss the problem in class and at assemblies

We need to ensure that all accessible areas of the school have a staff member present at breaks and before and after school (this is within the parameters of our Supervision Policy).

Students will be encouraged to report all incidents of bullying to a teacher or the Principal.

- I. Teacher refers incident or directs student(s) to the Principal
- II. Principal investigates details of incident
- III. A restorative session is held if appropriate
- IV. Parents of the harmer and the harmed are contacted
- V. After consultation with the CSO Schools Consultant, Diocesan anti-bullying procedures implemented, eg. suspension, exclusion and expulsion.

This policy was last reviewed in August 2017.