





At St Patrick's Catholic School, we believe that all members of the community have the right to a learning and work environment free from intimidation, humiliation and hurt. We all share a responsibility to create a culture of caring which will not tolerate bullying. This policy builds on the School's Pastoral Care Policy to provide clear and agreed procedures and strategies for combating bullying in the School, responding to bullying behaviours and protecting and supporting all parties involved.

Flowing from the Christian vision expressed in the Diocesan Pastoral Care Policy, schools are called to establish relationships which are grounded in love, compassion, reconciliation and justice. In witnessing Christian values we reject ideas, beliefs and behaviours which marginalize or victimize people.

Bullying behaviours are about an imbalance of power where there is a deliberate intent to cause harm or distress. These behaviours can be verbal, social, psychological or physical. They impact on the lives of the person / people being bullied, those doing the bullying and those looking on. Bullying incidents can be isolated or repeated.

Bullying takes many forms, all of which will cause distress. Examples of bullying include:

*Physical:*

*Verbal:*

Although the effects of bullying may be most painful for the individual victim, bullying can also affect the entire school community. It is therefore necessary for all members of the St Patrick's School Community to work collaboratively to prevent bullying.

Ultimately, strategies to prevent bullying will only be effective when placed within the context of a culture in which respect for others is constantly taught and demonstrated across all facets of school life. The Christian values, which represent the antithesis of bullying, must be continually affirmed in words and actions.

*VISION STATEMENT*

*Living* Catholic Discipleship by proclaiming and celebrating the Gospel message of Jesus Christ

*Nurturing* the development of the whole person

Strategies to prevent bullying will fall within the following board categories:

'moral education' in the context of Religious Education, liturgies and assemblies where the value of the individual is affirmed and the importance of qualities such as compassion, kindness, reconciliation, tolerance, respect and justice are encouraged.

'across the curriculum' values teaching (eg Discussing characters in novel, their relationships, imbalance of power, etc.)

teaching specifically related to bullying in the PDHPE curriculum (eg Interpersonal relationships, roles and responsibilities, peers, families, etc);

clear, consistent statements from staff to children about the nature and unacceptability of bullying (supported by School and Class Code of Conduct)

teaching more positive ways of resolving conflict, such as working co-operatively, sorting out disagreements, etc. (social skills programs, affirmative action, conflict









In responding to incidents of reported e-bullying the school recognises that incidents should be followed up where possible, but it may not be practical or possible to determine facts, especially if incidents occur away from school. After hour events are not strictly the responsibility of the school although the school will do its best to assist parents.

Parents may be required to refer such incidents to the police if it is not easily resolved or appropriate for the school to intervene.

REVIEWED: August 2014

NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2019