

Anti-Bullying Policy

Rationale

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga are committed to being “Communities of Faith, Learning, Care and Service providing a safe, secure and stimulating environment conducive to learning”¹. Our Catholic school communities are inclusive environments where diversity is affirmed and individual differences are respected.

Purpose

This document describes the policy and requirements for effectively dealing with bullying behavior. Partnership with parents/carers, students and the wider community is central to the success of this process.

Policy Statement

Students and staff have the right to expect that they will spend the school day free from the fear of bullying, harassment and intimidation.

Bullying is taken seriously and is not acceptable in any form.

Bullying:

- devalues, isolates and frightens
- affects an individual's ability to achieve
- has long-term effects on those engaging in bullying behaviour, those who are the subjects of bullying behaviour and the onlookers or bystanders.

Teachers, students, parents, caregivers and members of the wider school community have a responsibility to work together to address bullying.

Any inappropriate behaviour prevents or limits teaching and learning in schools and interferes with the wellbeing of students is not accepted.

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.

Procedures

All schools have strategies in place to prevent and deal with bullying. The procedures are available to all school community members.

Principals are responsible for leading the development, implementation and evaluation of an Anti-bullying plan for their school. This plan is readily accessible to all members of the school community.