



St John XXIII Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

“Together we strive to foster in children a resilience to meet challenges in their lives and to look for solutions. We endeavour to provide children with the skills and confidence to view their future and the future of the world with optimism and to make a positive contribution to society through making wise choices”
(School Vision Statement)

Rationale

St. John XXIII has zero tolerance towards bullying. All members of our school community are committed to providing for our children a safe and secure environment in which the children in our care can reach their full potential. All members of the school community have the right to feel safe, the right not to be intimidated, abused, threatened or physically hurt. With the Gospel Values underpinning the ethos of our school community with dignity and respect.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is repeated, intentional action that causes pain to another individual or small group. Bullying can occur over a short or long time frame. Bullying can take a number of forms including verbal, physical, psychological, social or verbal behaviours by those in a position of power. The intention of the perpetrator is to cause distress to an individual or group.

Forms of Bullying

Bullying can take many forms. The following types of behaviour where directed towards an individual and repeated, or occurring as part of a pattern of behaviour, could be considered to be bullying:

- Demeaning language or verbal abuse
- Threats or physical and/or verbal intimidation
- Outburst of anger or aggression
- Excluding or isolating others
- Harassment of any form including sexual harassment

Bullying may include repeated verbal or physical actions, exclusion, gestures and cyberbullying. This is not an exhaustive list as other behaviours may also constitute bullying.

Implementation

At St. John XXIII, we realise that the bully/victim problem is the responsibility of the whole community which includes staff, students and parents. This approach requires that each section of our community have their particular part to play in eliminating bullying from our school.

Staff will:

1. Be a role model for assertive rather than aggressive approaches to interpersonal interactions
2. Be vigilant when students are using technology
3. Be observant to signs of distress or suspected incidents of bullying
4. Be punctual to their yard duty and supervise the playground vigilantly
5. Be punctual to class
6. Take steps to help victims, listen to concerns and offer support and assistance
7. Follow designated intervention and behaviour management procedures
8. Take heed of parental concerns
9. Follow up any reports of bullying

Students will:

1. Refuse to be involved in any bullying incidents
2. Refuse to be bystanders by reporting any incidences and offering support to the victims of bullying
3. Report any incidents of cyberbullying either verbally to the principal/staff members or via the student portal
4. Tell a staff member if they know of any bullying incidents
5. Show bullies that they disapprove of bullying behaviour
6. Tell an adult if they believe they are being bullied

Parents are advised to:

1. Watch for signs of distress in their children such as an unwillingness to attend school
2. Advise their child to report any bullying incidents to parents, staff members or the Principal
3. Encourage their child to report incidents of cyberbullying to the Principal or via the student portal
4. Inform the school if bullying is suspected
5. Encourage their child not to retaliate
6. Attend interviews at school to help with the problem
7. Reassure their child that they will be supported by themselves and the school

8. Allow the school to deal with all bullying issues. Parents should not approach any child within the school grounds.