

SACRED HEART SCHOOL ULVERSTONE

Bullying Policy

Definition of Bullying

“Bullying is a repeated behaviour used by a more powerful person or group over less powerful person, who has difficulty stopping the situation. Bullying incidents are unprovoked and can be physical, verbal, social or psychological in nature. It is hard for the child being bullied to stop these things from happening.” (taken from Friendly Families: A Parents’ Guide to Dealing with and Preventing Bullying”).

Rigby (1996) states that bullying contains seven key features. These are:

1. an intention to be harmful
2. this intention is carried out
3. the behaviour harms the target
4. the bully overwhelms the target with his or her power
5. there is often no justification for the action
6. the behaviour repeats itself again and again
7. the bully derives a sense of satisfaction from hurting the target.

At Sacred Heart School every person has the right to feel safe. Any person who bullies another is denying them that right. The school will not tolerate any action that undermines a person’s right to feel safe, and it will take whatever steps necessary to stop such behaviour. We expect the full cooperation of parents of both victim and the person bullying in whatever action the school deems necessary.

Responsibilities

Teachers:

- will act as role models of caring and tolerant behaviour
- will listen to reports of bullying
- will protect the victims from further harm
- will act to stop the behaviour recurring

Parents:

- will listen sympathetically to reports of bullying
- will speak to the relevant school personnel
- will work with the school in seeking a permanent solution

Students who are bullied:

- will speak to their teacher/s and give them full details of the incident

Students who witness bullying:

- will tell the bully to stop if possible
- will immediately seek teacher assistance if it doesn’t stop

Preventative Measure

Along with the Religious Education program which promotes the worth and dignity of every person, the school has introduced two programs to support values education and to foster self esteem amongst students. “Program Achieve” enables students to become familiar with the key elements of success (Getting Along, Organization, Persistence, and Confidence). The Program ‘Friendly School, Friendly Families’ supports this program and gives teachers strategies and activities to help students become resilient people. The school provides parents with a guide to dealing with and preventing bullying. This comes in a book called:

“Friendly Families: A Parents’ Guide to Dealing with and Preventing Bullying”.

This book is available from the office.

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL
Incident Report Form**

Date: _____ Time: _____ Students Name: _____ Class: _____

Person/s Reporting the incident: _____ Location of incident: _____

Students interviewed regarding bullying (Some of these students may be bystanders and not directly involved);

- _____
- _____
- _____

Comments _____

Intervention:

1. Consequences:
2. Shared Concern
3. No blame
4. Group problem solving
5. parents informed by a) phone b) diary c) letter
6. Other

Follow up dates:

Outcome:

Other Comments:

Teacher's / Principal's signature: