



Student Bullying Policy

Mission Statement

To achieve our mission at St Therese's we aim:

- To nourish Christian values as a Catholic Community;
- To recognise and develop each person's sense of self worth;
- To foster a genuine concern for others in the wider community and in the world in which we live;
- To foster a genuine concern for others and the world in which we live;
- To plan, organize and celebrate as a Eucharistic community;
- To have the "Faith and Courage" to speak and act with responsible self discipline;
- To challenge and encourage our students to achieve their personal best in all endeavours;
- To provide a friendly, stimulating, happy and secure environment where each child, teacher and adult is valued;
- To welcome, respect and value people in all faiths and cultures;
- To recognise the wide range of skills and talents of our community and to allow these gifts to be "shared" with others;
- To provide a caring community where little things matter.

Contents

Section	Topic	Page
1	PURPOSE	3
2	WHAT IS BULLYING?	3
3	HOW DOES ST. THERESE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL DISCOURAGE BULLYING?	3
4	CONCLUSION	4

1. Purpose

St. Therese's Catholic School aims to actively promote and maintain a safe, respectful and orderly learning environment for all students and staff. This policy aims to ensure that St. Therese's Catholic School students and staff feel safe and respected while they are a member of the of St. Therese's Catholic School Community.

2. What is bullying?

Bullying is the deliberate repetitive (continuous) intention to harm someone who feels they do not have the power to stop it.

- Bullying, harassment or any form of discrimination is immoral. It can also be unlawful as it interferes with the right of a person to feel safe and valued as a member of a community.
- Bullying takes many forms. It can be:
 - Face-to-face such as fighting, pushing, taunting, insulting, embarrassing, intimidating and invading personal space, and behind-the-back such as writing threatening or offensive messages, sending distressing emails and writing anonymous notes that are hurtful.
 - Done individually such as a person mocking or teasing someone, and it can be done as a group by such means as social exclusion or hate group recruitment.
 - Physical, and Psychological.
 - Racial harassment, which involves behaviours such as social exclusion, teasing, taunting and threats based on another person's race.
 - The causing of hurt by traditional methods such as punching, kicking and spreading hurtful rumours, and the causing of hurt by contemporary means such as cyber bullying and engaging in identity theft or by defaming someone on social networking sites.

The key features of bullying are that it: - causes hurt and distress, - is repeated, - involves the use of power in an unfair way.

Bullying need not always be done by the older or stronger. "Bullying up" is bullying done by the smaller, the younger and the weaker, who either use anonymous means to bully, such as cyber bullying, or overt means to bully, knowing that any retaliation would make the provoked person look like they are the bully.

3 How does St. Therese's Catholic School discourage bullying?

Bullying is totally against the mission and purpose of St. Therese's Catholic School. The School is committed to providing an educational environment in which students feel valued and secure. To achieve this end, the school will seek to create a school-wide culture that:

- Allows students to flourish free from discrimination, harassment or any form of bullying

- Does not tolerate, condone or trivialise bullying behaviours.
- Is aware of what constitutes bullying behaviour.
- Provides support.

The methods used by the school to discourage bullying will vary from time-to time, with new initiatives being introduced when thought appropriate. The measures that have been used to discourage bullying at St. Therese's Catholic School include, but are not limited to:

- Employing a suitable range of sanctions to deal with and discourage bullies.
- Putting up signage about the school to promote a bully-free environment.
- Promotion of a bully-free environment in the school.
- Encouraging staff to adopt classroom management techniques, that discourage opportunities for bullying behaviours.
- Staff have a commitment to professional development in the areas of tolerance, empathy and acceptance of individual differences.
- Provide adequate supervision and visibility (high visibility jacket) in designated play areas.
- Conducting reviews of the School's anti-bullying policy, in order to ensure that it remains effective and relevant.

The effectiveness of these strategies rests with ALL members of the School's community.

To assist the school to assess the success or otherwise of the anti-bullying strategies being pursued, PBS data on Bullying at St. Therese's Catholic School will be prepared that summarises the quantitative data drawn from records kept and sometimes surveys undertaken at the School. The data will contain information that can be drawn making comparisons against previous years' conclusions to enable an understanding as to whether bullying is being reduced or is increasing.

4. Conclusion

St. Therese's Catholic School is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for its students. In order to achieve this end, the School will regularly review its anti-bullying policies and procedures.

It is recommended that this document is read in conjunction with the School Wide Positive Behaviour Plan and Bullying Policy Support Statement for students.