

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY (Positive Relations)

DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

Policy Number	23/07
Policy Name	Anti-Bullying Policy
Applicability	All Systemic Schools Boarding Schools
Contact Person	Director of Schools
Policy Status	Endorsed
Date of Approval	8 th August 2007
Date Last Amended	July 2007
Related Policies/Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe School Policy • Duty of Care • Pastoral Care Policy • Harassment Policy • Complaints and Grievances
Review Period:	2009

GENERAL POLICY ON ANTI-BULLYING FOR SYSTEMIC SCHOOLS IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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.

¹Diocesan Vision & Mission Statement

Supporting Statements

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.

Endorsed at DCSC Meeting on 8 August 2007.

Bishop Gerard Hanna DD
Bishop of Wagga Wagga

Nick Clarke
Chair DCSC
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