



Sacred Heart College

MARIST OBSERVATORY

EDUCATION WITH HEART



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ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

INTRODUCTION

This policy deals mostly with bullying between students at the School. The same principle applies to all forms of bullying between all members of Sacred Heart College.

DEFINITION

Bullying is a social problem involving interpersonal relationships. Bullying can take on various forms characterised by an imbalance of power where one person desires to humiliate another. The bullying action is usually repeated where the bullying person gains pleasure leaving the bullied person with a sense of being oppressed.

TYPES OF BULLYING

Physical: Inflicting physical pain of any form, using or damaging any article belonging to another without permission. **Verbal:** Using verbal attacks such as threats, taunts, mockery, “dissing”, racial slurs and hate speech, foul language, and namecalling. The bullying action is sometimes disguised as a joke.

Psychological: Intimidation, domination, power-play and the use of body language which diminishes the dignity of another.

Social: Rumour-mongering, ostracising, abuse of authority, circulating hurtful or damaging things about another.

Cyber: As with social, but through social media like Facebook, Twitter, BBM, etc.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY OF STUDENTS

According to the South African Constitution, all people have rights and responsibilities. The right to human dignity and the responsibility to respect the dignity of others; the right to be respected by other people and the responsibility to show respect to others, the right to be valued as individuals and the responsibility to value others as individuals.

Students have the right to a safe learning environment and the responsibility to ensure that their behaviour respects the rights of others to a safe learning environment.

Students have a right to an education and the responsibility to allow uninterrupted

learning to take place.

The School, with its Catholic Marist ethos is therefore opposed to any form of behaviour exhibited by any member of the community which puts another person's basic rights in jeopardy and which constitutes any form of bullying.

THE APPROACH OF THE SCHOOL

The School will strive to proactively and reactively address all forms of bullying by educating students, with educators striving to set good examples in promoting respectful and caring behaviour.

PROCEDURES TO DEAL WITH INCIDENTS OF BULLYING

Bullying will not be tolerated.

The School will endeavour to teach students to practice assertive behaviour, target the bullying behaviour, not the bullying person; report instances of bullying behaviour. Persistent bullying behaviour will be dealt with severely, with counselling to be implemented if deemed necessary. Repeat bullying behaviour is considered to be serious conduct which may lead to suspension or expulsion from the School. *Adopted*

October 2011