



Sacred Heart College

MARIST OBSERVATORY

EDUCATION WITH HEART



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ANTI-BULLYING POLICY Primary School

AIM:

Sacred Heart College is committed to a policy of inclusion, equality and justice for all. The School focuses on creating a happy, safe, caring and stimulating environment where bullying of any kind is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

All incidents of bullying are taken seriously. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Staff, students and parents will work together to address issues of bullying in accordance with our Primary School's Anti-Bullying Policy.

Failure to abide by this Policy, as with other Policies at Sacred Heart College, may result in disciplinary action as described in the School's Code of Conduct.

BULLYING DEFINITIONS:

- Bullying is aggressive behaviour or harassment, characterized by an imbalance of power by an individual or a group, where there is a desire to deliberately hurt another or make them feel unhappy.
- Bullying behaviour will be repeated over a period of time and is difficult for the victim to defend against.
- Once-off incidents, whilst they may be very serious and must always be dealt with, do not fall within the definition of 'bullying'.

FORMS OF BULLYING:

• **PHYSICAL BULLYING:**

Physical bullying includes, but is not limited to repeated:

- punching, kicking, tripping or pushing.
- taking and/or the damaging of possessions.
- threatening and extortion.
- preventing someone from entering or leaving an area or room.

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- **NON PHYSICAL BULLYING:**

Non-physical bullying includes but is not limited to repeated:

- provocative behaviour, such as making rude gestures, pulling faces and producing offensive graffiti.
- verbal bullying, such as name-calling, making fun of another person, being repeatedly critical, prolonged unkind teasing, making threats.
- making racist, sexist or homophobic comments.
- relational bullying, such as spreading rumours, gossiping and the breaking of confidences.
- sexual harassment, such as the spread of sexual gossip, sexual innuendos and jokes as well as derogatory comments about a student's appearance.
- cyberbullying, such as the sending of cruel or threatening text, email, or instant messages, posting nasty pictures or messages about others in blogs or on web sites, making unkind comments about another student in text or instant messages, in emails or chat rooms, taking explicit photographs and sending them on to others and "stealing" someone's identity to spread rumours or lies about another person.

BULLYING IS NOT

- The odd occasion of falling out with friends, name calling, arguments or when the occasional trick or joke is played on someone. It is bullying if it is done several times and on purpose.
- Individual cases of misbehavior or misconduct (as noted above) will be dealt with according to the School's Code of Conduct.

DEALING WITH AN INCIDENT:

All bullying incidents will be dealt with according to the relevant section of the School's Code of Conduct.

Any reported incidents of bullying will be investigated fully by staff.

Appropriate records will be kept of all incidents.

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