

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY



EMMANUEL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL *Anti-Bullying Policy*

RATIONALE

'It is a fundamental democratic right for a child to feel safe in school and to be spared the oppression and repeated, intentional humiliation implied in bullying.' (Olweus)

As a school community, our aim is to develop a nurturing and life-giving environment where a culture of safety is promoted for all. The establishment of respectful relationships is critical in protecting and supporting the dignity and integrity of each person. It is important that school communities help students build and restore respectful relationships with each other.

Incidents of bullying undermine respectful relationships. An episode of bullying has three identifying characteristics:

1. an imbalance of power,
2. an intent to hurt, embarrass, or humiliate,
3. repeated behaviour.

Bullying behaviour has many forms.

Physical Bullying may include hitting, poking, tripping, pushing or damaging someone's belongings.

Verbal Bullying may include name calling, insults, homophobic or racist remarks and verbal abuse.

Social Bullying may include lying, spreading rumours, playing a nasty joke, mimicking, and deliberately excluding someone.

Psychological Bullying may include intimidation, manipulation and stalking.

Cyber Bullying may include using technology (such as email, mobile phones, chat rooms, social networking sites, etc) to verbally, socially or psychologically bully.

It is also important to define what is not considered bullying behaviour. Bullying behaviour is not:

- arguments and disagreements
- disliking someone
- single-episode acts of nastiness or spite
- Random acts of aggression or intimidation

In such circumstances, the behaviour will be addressed within the School's Behaviour Management Policy and Procedures.

Our school community aims to develop and enhance a positive school culture that supports responsible personal behaviour and actively discourages bullying behaviours.

VALUES

Love, compassion, justice, dignity, self-discipline, tolerance, respect.

POLICY STATEMENT

Bullying is any intentional repeated behaviour by an individual or group, where there is an imbalance of power that causes a person to feel unsafe and or helpless.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. General behaviour expectations will be clearly outlined for all students.
2. A clear definition of bullying behaviour will be communicated to students, parents and staff.
3. Intervention strategies will be adopted to address bullying and promote respectful relationships.
4. Promote positive bystander behaviour.
5. Positively reinforce and recognise pro-social behaviour taken by students.
6. Ensure proactive initiatives to build respectful relationships will be integrated into the curriculum.
7. Current thinking and practices used to address bullying in schools will be provided to staff and parents on a regular basis.
8. Options for the reporting of bullying incidents will be available to all students and be age appropriate.
9. Procedures for addressing all bullying incidents will be clearly communicated to all members of the school community.
10. Monitor and evaluate current anti-bullying procedures to ensure they respond to students' needs.
11. Support services will be available to staff, students and parents affected by bullying behaviour.

Policy Area: Administration
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Board Membership: Michael Brown, Nikki Kirkwood, Liz Russell, Natalie Dunton, Michelle Jensen, Andre Wessels, Mark Mattes, Michael McCusker, Fr Peter Tonti.

Procedures

It is necessary to have preventative programs/activities to maintain a positive school atmosphere and to encourage all students to be respectful to each other. It is also necessary to have procedures for handling cases as they come to people's attention.

The essential elements of a comprehensive school bullying prevention programme include:

1. A positive school climate
2. Opportunities in the formal and informal curriculum to reinforce positive, Christian behaviours
3. Procedures for handling bullying, bullies and victims.

At Emmanuel a positive school climate is an important element of Pastoral Care. It is built and maintained through:

- holding positive beliefs about the behaviour of children and adults in the school community
- maintaining positive expectations of children and their behaviour
- encouraging, recognizing and reinforcing desirable behaviours in both classroom and playground settings
- the positive, proactive behaviour management practices of staff

At Emmanuel opportunities for reinforcing positive, Christian behaviours occur formally and informally through:

- * Leadership activities for Year 6 students / Peer Support Program
- * the Religious Education Curriculum
- * Respectful Relationships Education Curriculum
- * Trauma Informed practices of staff
- * the messages that students receive on Assembly and via our Emmanuel Learner and the Virtues Programs
- * the example of all school staff in their relationships with students, parents, each other.

At Emmanuel, the procedures for handling episodes of bullying are:

- listening openly to all sides of the story and clarifying the facts and feelings involved
- speaking to all participants separately to clarify what they want from the other person/s
- bringing the two parties together to confirm facts and feelings
- Using the technique
 - When you do.....
 - I feel.....
 - I would prefer you to
- Deciding mutually acceptable behaviours for the future
- Making appropriate apologies
- Encouraging confidentiality
- Explaining that on the first occasion it is an informal procedure; repeat offences would include informing parents and formal warnings.

Ways to Report Bullying

Students often feel that to deal with the problem of bullying can only make it worse. Students are encouraged to realize that bullying can only be dealt with if a significant adult knows about it. The significant adult could be a parent or a teacher. Bullying can be reported by:

- Telling a parent, teacher or member of the Administration Team.
- Having a friend speak to a significant adult on your behalf
- Speak with the school counsellor
- Self refer by placing their name in the 'Stop Bullying Box' situated in the library

Signs for parents to look for that a child is being bullied.

- bed wetting
- crying or emotional upset that seems unusual
- not wanting to go to school
- not wanting to be left with certain people
- any changes in sleeping or eating habits
- loss of confidence

Signs for parents to detect if your child is at risk of becoming a bully.

- has difficulties seeing another persons' point of view
- likes to win at all costs
- bullies sisters or brothers
- is bullied by family members
- if fighting, arguing and teasing are acceptable at home
- has difficulty keeping or making friends
- has low self esteem

We thank all members of the Emmanuel School Community who are working with us to promote positive, respectful relationships in our school.