



Catherine McAuley Catholic Primary School

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Anti-Bullying Policy

PURPOSE

At Catherine McAuley Catholic Primary School, we believe that all members of the community have the right to a learning and work environment free from intimidation, humiliation and hurt. We all share a responsibility to foster, promote and restore right relationships. We believe that bullying is unacceptable and as staff, students, and parents, we all share a responsibility for preventing it.

Our anti-bullying policy builds on the school's discipline and pastoral care policies (WAM) to provide clear procedures and strategies to prevent, reduce and respond to bullying.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

Schools are called to establish relationships which are grounded in love, compassion, reconciliation and justice. In witnessing these values we reject ideas, beliefs and behaviours which marginalise or victimise people.

POLICY CONTENT

Whilst there is no universally accepted definition of bullying, there is general consensus that Bullying behaviour:

Definition

- is deliberate and often repeated
- intends to cause fear, distress, hurt or harm to another
- is action by a more powerful individual or group over a less powerful individual or group

Bullying takes many forms, all of which will cause distress. Examples of bullying include:

- **Physical** - hitting, pushing, tripping, kicking, spitting on others etc
- **Verbal** - teasing, using offensive names, ridiculing, spreading rumours etc
- **Non-Verbal** - writing offensive notes or graffiti about others, using e-mail or text messaging to hurt others, rude gestures etc
- **Exclusion** - deliberately excluding others from group, refusing to sit next to someone etc
- **Extortion** - threatening to take someone's possessions, food or money etc
- **Property** - stealing, hiding, damaging or destroying property etc
- **Cyber** - any form of bullying which is carried out through electronic means such as mobile phones, email, chat room, social networking, 'sms', web page etc

How do we prevent bullying at Catherine McAuley Catholic Primary School

We believe, based on research, that prevention strategies through education that involve the whole school community [students, staff and parents] are more likely to reduce bullying. Therefore, at Catherine McAuley we recognise that we all share the responsibility to prevent bullying.

Procedures for Reported Bullying:

If bullying is reported to be happening in the Classroom:

Teacher clarifies the details of the incidents of bullying with the reporting student, determining if this is deliberate, repeated and falls within the definition of bullying at McAuley.

If this incident does not meet the criteria, it is dealt with using the above mentioned system.

If the incident does meet the criteria, then the following takes place.

- Student information is recorded regarding the incident/s.
- Teacher talks to the student being reported for bullying.
- A determination is made as to the severity of the bullying.

If this is incidental or minor, the teacher deals with the bullying, records details on Compass and issues punishment in line with the offense. The teacher then rings the parents of both children to inform them of the situation and the consequences that will be undertaken.

If the offense is major, it is referred to the Assistant Principal for further investigation and follow-up.

- The Assistant Principal (or Co-ordinator) will investigate the allegation, interviewing the victim, any witnesses and the perpetrator.
- After the investigation, a consequence will be issued and the Assistant Principal will contact the parents of both the victim and the perpetrator to inform them of the results of the investigation and the consequences for the perpetrator.

Major Offense Outside the Classroom:

If outside the classroom (playground, bus, online), it will immediately be referred to the Assistant Principal (or Co-ordinator) who will investigate the allegation, interview the victim, any witnesses and the perpetrator. After the investigation, a consequence will be issued and the Assistant Principal will contact the parents of both the victim and the perpetrator to inform them of the results of the investigation and the consequences for the perpetrator.

POLICY REVIEW

The policy will be reviewed not less frequently than once every three years.

POLICY DATES			
<i>Formulated</i>		<i>Adopted</i>	2019
<i>Implemented</i>		<i>Reviewed</i>	2022
<i>Next Review Due</i>	February 2024		
POLICY AUTHORISATION			
<i>Principal</i>	Michael Croke	<i>Signature</i>	

