



St John the Apostle
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, TARNEIT WEST

CYBER BULLYING POLICY

2018

ST JOHN THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL

54 – 76 Kingbird Ave, Tarneit
West

Principal
Mr. Simon Dundon

Rationale

This document is intended to be read in conjunction with the school's Student Wellbeing Policy, Behaviour Management Policy and guidelines for the appropriate use of school technology and internet. St John the Apostle Primary School is committed to promoting positive relationships to ensure students and staff can exercise their right to learn or to teach, and their right to feel safe and secure online.

Young students have embraced the use of information and communication technologies to maintain contact with friends and make new ones. They send e-mails, create their own websites, post intimate personal news, send text messages and images, chat in chatrooms, post to discussion boards, and seek out new friends in online communities. While most interactions are positive, we know that technologies can be used to harass and intimidate others. This is known as cyber bullying.

Definition

A person is bullied when one or more other people intentionally expose them regularly and over time to negative or harmful actions. Bullies are people who deliberately set out to intimidate, exclude, threaten, verbally harass, damage belongings and/or hurt others repeatedly. Bullying is a clear form of harassment.

Aims

- To reinforce within the school community what cyber bullying is, and the fact that it is unacceptable.
- To identify cyber bullying in the school, where and when it is occurring and who are the victims and the offenders.
- To encourage everyone within the school community to be alert to signs and evidence of cyber bullying and to take on the responsibility to report it to staff whether as observer or victim.
- To ensure that all reported incidents of cyber bullying are followed up appropriately and that support is given to both victims and offenders.
- To seek parental and peer-group support and co-operation at all times.
- To reinforce with students safe cyber behaviours with regard to preventing cyber bullying e.g. privacy with regard to log-in, passwords and phone numbers and receipt of unsolicited messages. This will include teachers' duty of care when using the Internet/Intranet.
- To reinforce the necessity to save the evidence of any kind of unsolicited or concerning contacts using the internet/intranet.

Implementation

Parents, teachers and community will be made aware of the school's position on bullying, including cyber bullying. All parents will have access to a copy of the Anti-Bullying Policy including cyber-bullying via the School website. The school will promote positive attitudes and behaviours such as mutual respect, caring for others, developing self-esteem, confidence and self-help skills to contribute to the eradication of cyber bullying. Students, staff and parents of the school all have roles and responsibilities in the prevention of bullying at St John the Apostle Primary School, these include:

Roles and responsibilities of students

Students can counter the effects of bullying and cyber bullying by:

- Being actively involved in the variety of cyber safety programs
- Developing a sense of respect and understanding of others
- Not taking part in any form of cyber bullying
- Reporting incidents of cyber bullying to parents or a member of staff.
- Supporting students who are being bullied.
- Developing strategies to deal with bullies ie. "I don't like what you're doing." "You don't have the right to do that to me."
- Not using mobile phones, cameras or other digital devices to record audio and visual material that is not authorized as part of the school curriculum program.
- Not breaching the privacy of other students, staff and members of the school community through any unauthorized recording or filming.
- Not disseminating inappropriate information through digital media or other means.

Roles and Responsibilities of Staff

Staff interaction with students has important consequences for the level of bullying in a school. Staff example can have a significant impact by:

- Promoting anti cyberbullying programs for the classroom and school.
- Listening sympathetically to students who need support and following up appropriately
- Providing strategies for both students and parents to deal with cyber bullying issues.
- Intervening in incidents of cyber bullying they witness at school
- Adhering to St John the Apostle Behaviour Management procedures and guidelines with regard to appropriate use of the school technology, internet etc.
- Taking responsibility to act as a positive role model for their children in their care.

Role of Parents

Parents have an active role to play in countering bullying by:

- Addressing unacceptable behaviour of their children both at home and at school.
- Taking responsibility to act as a positive role model for their children.
- Informing the school of any concerns and allowing the school to follow up those concerns.
- Seeking understanding of bullying instances before reacting.
- Supporting the school anti-bullying policy.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed to ensure it adheres to current Child Safety Standards, as part of the school's four-year review cycle.

References

1. CEM [*Policy 2.26, Pastoral Care of Students in Catholic Schools.*](#)
2. Ministerial Order No. 870 *Child Safe Standards*
3. Child Safe Standards - Department of Education and Training Victoria
4. The National Safe Schools Framework