Anti-bullying Policy (Student)

*Brisbane Catholic Education (BCE) believes everybody in our schools has the right to feel safe. This policy validates this belief and endorses that bullying behaviour in BCE schools is unacceptable.*

**Rationale**

Each Catholic community, organisation and individual collaboratively engaged in the educational ministry of the Church in the Archdiocese of Brisbane is called to:

**Teach**

We promote faith in Jesus Christ, teaching and learning about Jesus, the gospel and the faith of the Catholic Christian community. Learning is lifelong, life-giving and engages the whole person.

**Challenge**

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we challenge those we educate to live in communion with God, others and the whole of creation in prayerful, sacramental, just, peaceful, inclusive and reconciling communities.

**Transform**

We educate for a transformed world in communion, by nurturing the gifts and potential of each person, enacting shared leadership, and exercising a preferential option for the poor and the marginalised.

This policy document is aligned with the Vision Statement for Catholic Education above, in particular that in the event that student bullying does occur, appropriate steps are in place to handle the situation under the guiding principles of this Vision Statement

**A Definition of Bullying**

Bullying is a systematic and repeated abuse of power (Rigby 2010). This can be face to face or using technology (cyber-bullying), such as mobile phones, the internet via email, social networking sites, and chat rooms to bully verbally socially or psychologically etc.

(It is important to note that the recognition of other forms of undesirable interpersonal behaviour are often confused with bullying. These could include for example: conflict between children of equal power, non-malicious exclusion of some children, one-off acts of meanness and spite, and random acts of aggressiveness. Rigby 2010, The National Centre Against Bullying.)
Bullying involves:

- Dominating or hurting someone
- Unfair action (physical, psychological or social) by the perpetrator/s
- a power imbalance
- (typically) repetition
- an unjust use of power
- a lack of adequate defence by the target and feelings of oppression and humiliation (Rigby 2010)

**Implementation Outcomes**

1. Each school will develop clear regulations as to how bullying will be dealt with in their school. These regulations may stand alone, as in a specific anti-bullying policy and used in conjunction with the relevant BCE’s *Student Protection Reporting Process* and can also form an explicit part of the school’s Student Behaviour Support Plan.

2. The school’s Anti-bullying document will be made available to all students, staff and parents.

**References**

*Australian Covert Bullying Prevalence Study*, (2009), CHPRC, Edith Cowan University  

*National Safe Schools Framework 2010 Draft*, Department of Education Science and Training, Canberra, Australian Government  

*Procedures for reporting incidents (Draft)*, (2010), Queensland Schools Alliance Against Violence (QSAAV), Brisbane.


| Alternative title |  |  |
| Audience target | School |  |
| Content Type | Policy |  |
| Description | This policy validates the belief that everyone has the right to feel safe and endorses that bullying behaviour in BCE schools is unacceptable. Schools will develop a response to how bullying will be dealt with in their schools. |  |
| Keywords | Student bullying, bullies, student protection |  |
| Creator/Owner | Dianne Goosem |  |
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