



Staying Strong As One

KURURRUNGKU CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE, BILLILUANA

Anti-Bullying Policy

As a Catholic School Community, in accordance with Christ's teaching to love one another as we love ourselves, we strive to respect the rights and dignity of all individuals and treat each other in a caring and loving way.

Kururrungku Catholic Education Centre, Billiluna (KCEC) wishes to be open and pastoral in its approach to bullying. It respects the rights of its students to be free from all forms of bullying and harassment. Each student has the right to feel safe at school and to develop to their full academic and social potential.

As a school community we wish to provide an approach to bullying which supports all parties involved. We wish to lead by example, to encourage respect, courtesy and kindness, and to assist those who are in need of support.

We aim to provide an environment where everyone treats each other in ways they would like to be treated themselves.

Definition of Bullying

Bullying can be defined as wilfully and repeatedly hurting another person who is less powerful either emotionally or physically.

Bullying can take many forms. It is repeated incidents involving:

- a bigger, stronger or more powerful child on a smaller or weaker child, or
- a group of children on a single child

We consider the following behaviours to be bullying when they are repeated against a less powerful person. These might be:

Physical:

- ◆ Hitting, kicking, punching
- ◆ Pushing, shoving, spitting
- ◆ Taking or damaging something that belongs to someone else
- ◆ Forcing others to hand over food, money or something which belongs to them
- ◆ Making someone do something they don't want to do.

Verbal:

- ◆ Name calling
- ◆ Teasing
- ◆ Threatening
- ◆ Making fun of someone.
- ◆ Racist or sexist remarks

Social:

- ◆ Excluding others from a game or group
- ◆ Spreading untrue stories about others.

Psychological:

- The child is stalked or given dirty looks

Reporting of Bullying

Incidents of bullying can be reported to any teacher, the social worker or the Principal by children and their parents. Any bullying incidents that are dealt with will be recorded.

Responsibilities

Responsibilities of Staff:

- ◆ To model appropriate behaviours at all times
- ◆ To deal with all reported and observed incidents of bullying as set out in this policy and the discipline policy
- ◆ To ensure that children are supervised at all times.
- ◆ To report incidents of bullying to the Principal.

Responsibilities of Students:

- ◆ To 'tell' if they are being bullied or if they see someone else being bullied – both at school and on the way to and from school.
- ◆ To help someone who is being bullied by speaking up.
- ◆ To not bully others.

Responsibilities of Parents:

- ◆ To watch for signs that their child may be being bullied.
- ◆ Some tell tale signs are:
 - bruises, scratches or cuts
 - damaged or missing belongings
 - headaches, stomach aches and other pain that the child can't put a finger on
 - unusual outbursts of temper
 - not wanting to go to school
- ◆ To speak to someone on staff at St Columba's School if their child is being bullied, or they suspect that this is happening.
- ◆ To instruct their children to 'tell' if they are bullied.

Preventative Strategies used at our School:

Staff

Staff will model appropriate behaviour at all times

Professional development and in-school training in issues relating to bullying behaviour.

Staff will be aware of signs of bullying such as withdrawal, changes in work standards, unusual absences.

Staff will be aware of supervision requirements by actively patrolling and monitoring students who show evidence of isolation or distress.

Students

Social skills programme as part of curriculum.

Raising students' awareness of bullying and related issues.

Parents

Providing parents with a copy of the Anti-Bullying Policy at the beginning of each year.

Advising parents of social skills programmes at the school.

Disseminating information relating to research about issues of bullying.

Response Strategies for dealing with bullying incidents:

When a bullying incident is reported or observed we will:

Ensure that we use appropriate strategies from a range including individual/class/group investigation or discussion, parental involvement, discipline procedures (as per discipline policy), social skills intervention, counselling, mediation, monitoring of situation and conflict resolution skills training.

The staff will be responsible for implementing the policy requirements and ensuring that incidents of bullying are dealt with in a manner consistent with the policy and as soon as possible after they are reported or observed.