

# ST AGNES SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR POLICY

## PURPOSE

***“At St Agnes School we strive to provide a safe, supportive and caring learning environment where students are actively engaged in their learning and contribute to our school as responsible citizens”***

School is a place of learning. Students have the right to learn and teachers have the right to teach. We all have the right to feel safe and secure at school so we can get on with our learning.

At St Agnes School our school values of TRUST, RESPONSIBILITY, PERSONAL EXCELLENCE and COURAGE underpin our work.

From time to time students may make inappropriate choices that disrupt the teaching and learning of the class or may jeopardise the safety of staff or students.

## **The following behaviour is not acceptable at St Agnes School:**

- Disrupting learning
- Aggression, violence or intimidation which may endanger or threaten others
- Bullying and harassment- verbal, racial, physical, sexual and cyber (see anti-bullying information below)
- Misuse of school property and school environment
- Refusing to follow staff instructions

## RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES

### **Responsibilities of students:**

- Follow the school’s behaviour and anti-bullying code as outlined in this policy
- Respect yourself and others
- Respect property and the environment
- Move and play in a safe way
- Display a positive attitude
- Attend and be punctual
- Wear clothing within the dress code
- Communicate responsibly between home and school
- Seek help if required (see anti-bullying information as part of this policy and grievance policy)

**REMEMBER...! If bullying and harassment occurs to you or others...REPORT IT!**

**KEEP ON REPORTING IT UNTIL YOU FEEL SAFE!**

- If you are bullied or you know someone who is being bullied, it is your responsibility to report it.
- If you don’t tell someone and report bullying, people may think that everything is ok.

## **Consequences for inappropriate behaviour in the classroom may include:**

- Restorative conversations and actions
- Verbal and written apologies
- Time out in the classroom
- Buddy-class or office time out of the classroom
- Make up time and work missed
- Non-participation in some activities
- Communication with parents
- Senior staff involvement

## **Consequences for inappropriate behaviour in the yard may include:**

- Restorative conversations
- Restorative action
- Restricted play area
- Alternative play programme
- Senior staff involvement which may involve a 'Focus Room' (time out of yard for first half of lunch to have a restorative conversation with Senior Staff)
- Communication with parents

## **Senior staff involvement will follow DfE guidelines. Action may include:**

- Parents required to take students home
- Internal suspension or suspension from school
- Exemption from some activities
- Support from DfE and external agencies
- Exclusion from school

## **Responsibilities of Staff:**

- Use restorative practices where appropriate
- Be consistent, fair and explicit
- Communicate with all stakeholders
- Encourage students to take responsibility for their own behaviour
- Have a clear understanding of St Agnes Behaviour policy
- Class teachers to ensure that all students access the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum

## **Responsibilities of Parents**

- Understand and support the school in the implementation of the St Agnes Behaviour Policy

**At St Agnes School, everyone has the right to feel safe, and everyone has the right to be treated with respect by others. WE TAKE BULLYING SERIOUSLY.**

### **WHAT IS BULLYING AND HARASSMENT?**

- Bullying and harassment is when people choose behaviours that are ***deliberate*** and directed against individuals or groups of people
- Bullying is targeted and ongoing
- Bullying can develop into a pattern of behaviour that can occur for some time unless action is taken to stop it. Bullying and harassment can make people feel...
- Scared
- Worried
- Angry/annoyed
- Ashamed
- Sad/put down



### **KINDS OF BULLYING AND HARASSMENT**

These are examples of ways in which people can be bullied or harassed:

Physical bullying and harassment: Is hurting or touching someone else. It might be hitting, punching, pushing, biting, kicking, spitting, pinching or scratching.

Verbal bullying and harassment: Is hurting someone with words. It might be name calling, teasing, false positives, put downs or threats made towards you or your family or friends. It may be said to you or someone else about you. *Laughing at victims or being a willing bystander when bullying occurs, is also a form of bullying.*

Non-verbal bullying and harassment: Is rude gestures and looks and intentionally excluding others.

Cyber bullying and harassment: Is using technology inappropriately to hurt people (e.g. mobile S.M.S., internet, e-mails etc.)

Intellectual bullying and harassment: Is when someone gives you a hard time because you may be good at your work, or that you may find work difficult.

Sexual harassment and bullying: Is teasing about being a boy or girl. It might be:

- Teasing and calling you names, rude signs or comments
- Graffiti or jokes
- Putting someone down because he/she is boy or girl— eg Saying, “He likes you” or ‘She is your girlfriend”
- Unwanted touching
- Gendered comments
- Gendered sexualised comments

Racial and/or Religious bullying and harassment: Is teasing someone about or putting down a person belonging to a certain race, religion or culture. It might be:

- Teasing someone because they have different skin colour, eye shape, clothes, language, food etc.

‘Bystander bullying’

- Deliberately choosing to stay and watch when someone is being bullied and doing nothing to stop it.

## **WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU ARE BULLIED AT SCHOOL?**

1. Try to solve it yourself first e.g ignore them, walk away, tell them to stop it, use an 'I' statement for example, "I don't like it when you laugh at me."

**If that doesn't work PERSIST**

2. Tell your teacher, the teacher on duty or a trusted adult.

**If that doesn't work PERSIST**

3. Tell the Principal or Deputy. Tell someone at home too.

**REMEMBER... SOME PROBLEMS MAY NEED AN ADULT'S HELP IMMEDIATELY!**

## **WHAT DOES A BULLY - FREE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT LOOK LIKE?**

- Students cooperate and include others in activities
- Students help each other by showing respect
- Students feel safe to learn in an environment that encourages risk taking
- Students trust their peers to display honesty at all times
- Everyone's values and opinions are respected, valued and listened to

## **WHAT ARE WE DOING AT ST AGNES SCHOOL TO MINIMISE BULLYING AND ITS EFFECTS?**

### **PREVENTION:**

- All students at St Agnes School access the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum
- Talking about our own school values and teaching students the importance of these

### **INTERVENTION:**

- Counselling students who have been bullied
- Putting consequences in place for those who bully others
- Teaching students pro-active strategies for being better 'bystanders' if they see bullying occurring
- Ensuring all staff know how to address bullying effectively

### **POST PREVENTION STRATEGIES INCLUDE:**

- Talking with parents and carers around strategies
- Ongoing monitoring of situations to ensure students wellbeing is maintained

## **OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES**



**Kids Help Line**  
<http://www.kidshelp.com.au>  
1800 55 1800  
24 hour telephone and online counselling for  
children and young people in Australia



**Bullying. No way! - Website**  
<http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au>  
A website created by Australia's  
educational communities

Policy ratified by Governing Council: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Next Policy Review Date: Term 2, 2024

**'Learning today, leading tomorrow'**