

Anti- Bullying Ss. Peter & Paul School



1. Rationale

Our school seeks and affirms each student's worth and dignity. Bullying strikes at the basis of these values and prevents students reaching for excellence in every dimension of life. Students are entitled to receive their education free from humiliation, oppression and abuse. Bullying affects everyone, not just the bullies and the targeted individual(s). It also affects other students who may witness the violence, intimidation and distress of the targeted individual(s). It can damage the atmosphere of a class and even the climate of a school.

Aims of policy

- To counter views that bullying is an inevitable part of school life.
- To provide a safe, welcoming and secure environment for our students
- To create a supportive climate for our students.
- To provide suitable services/intervention for bullies and targets of bullying
- To provide a physical and emotional environment that engenders good behavioral patterns.
- To move beyond the crisis-management approach to an environment free from abuse.

2. Definition

Our school defines bullying as follows:

Bullying is a form of harassment. It is a deliberate attempt to cause physical or emotional harm to someone. This type of behavior is unwanted, unwelcome, unsolicited and usually persistent. Bullying is an abuse of power.

Examples of Bullying

- Name-calling, hurtful or racist names
- Hitting, punching, kicking, bumping
- Threatening
- Teasing or mocking
- Deliberately ignoring or excluding
- Spreading rumors/scandals
- Sending hurtful notes, e-mails, voicemail messages
- Interfering with the property of another
- Sexual innuendo and harassment

3. Procedures

Reporting Systems

- Students are told they must report any incidence of bullying to an adult within the school, and that when another student tells them that they are being bullied or if they see bullying taking place it is their responsibility to report their knowledge to any member of the school personnel. There is also a provision for school members to report incidents anonymously through the school's online BullyBoard (<http://www.quia.com/sv/48238.html>).

School Administrators will:

- Provide appropriate, useful and timely staff development training on positive learning environments and bullying.
- Investigate all allegations of bullying and follow-up accordingly
- Provide needed support and intervention

School Personnel will:

- Closely supervise students in all areas of the school property
- Watch for signs of bullying and stop it when it happens
- Respond quickly and sensitively to bullying reports
- Take seriously parents' concerns about bullying
- Assign consequences for bullying based on the school discipline code
- Use the classroom and other areas of the school to discourage exclusion
- Teach students to accept and forgive the behavior of others

Students will:

- Treat each other respectfully
- Refuse to bully others
- Refuse to let others be bullied
- Refuse to watch, laugh, or join in when someone is being bullied
- Report bullying to a trusted adult in the school

Parents/Guardians will:

- Watch for signs of distress in their children
- Listen to their children and take an interest in the child's social life
- Inform the school immediately if their child is being bullied
- Keep a written record if bullying persists

Intervention/Response

- Upon learning about a bullying incident, the principal shall interview those involved. The investigation may include interviews with other students, parents, and school personnel, review of school records; and identification of parent and family issues.
- Consequences for students who bully others shall depend on the results of the investigation and may include counseling; a parent conference; demerit; detention; suspension and/or expulsion. Depending on the severity of the incident, the principal may also take appropriate steps to ensure student safety, which may include reporting incidents to law enforcement agencies.