



Caritas College
Port Augusta

Anti-Bullying Policy

Caritas College School Board

Rationale for the Anti-Bullying Policy

The Caritas College Anti-Bullying Policy supports our school motto 'In all things love' reflecting our efforts to assure the right of every member to a safe environment and the responsibility of every person to promote safe practices.

The Caritas College Mission is to form students to value, foster and respect the uniqueness, dignity and integrity of each person and to build partnerships with families, students, staff and the community so all are included and feel welcome.

Our aim is to provide a 'child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about the decisions that affect their lives.'

We believe 'respectful relationships that support the dignity of each person including children and young people are central to the life and teachings of the Catholic Church.'

Caritas College students are encouraged to participate in all dimensions of life and to develop skills to contribute to their own safety, wellbeing and resilience.

The mission and values of the Catholic Church including the values of love, compassion, justice and reconciliation underpin this policy.

At Caritas College bullying is unacceptable behaviour.

Role of the School Board is to:

- Develop, monitor and review the policy
- Monitor the implementation and review of the Anti-bullying Policy
- Promote parent and community partnerships that support the Anti-bullying Policy

Role of the Principal is to:

- Ensure a safe learning environment is provided
- Oversee the policy's implementation and review
- Provide resources and training for students and staff in relation to maintaining a safe school environment

The role of the parent is to:

- Work in partnership with the school regarding the College's Anti-bullying Policy
- Report incidents of bullying (either as a by-stander or a person who is bullied)
- Encourage young people to report any incidents of bullying
- Encourage reconciliation and preserve the dignity of each individual
- Work with children's class teacher and/or Director if your child is involved in any way in a bullying incident

The role of staff is to:

- Model respectful behaviours
- Provide clear expectations for acceptable behaviour, to ensure a safe and respectful learning environment is maintained
- Explicitly teach young people about the impacts of bullying and strategies for countering bullying
- Consistently apply the Anti-bullying Policy
- Encourage reconciliation and preserve the dignity of each individual
- Implement strategies to support all students (including the person being bullied, those bullying and any by-standers)
- Communicate clearly and promptly with teachers and appropriate staff, and families when issues arise

Role of student is to:

- Actively work to ensure a safe and respectful learning environment is maintained
- Respect each others' individual differences
- Explicitly communicate through words and actions that bullying is unacceptable
- Report incidents of bullying (either as a by-stander or a person who is bullied)
- Accept responsibility for his/her own choices of behaviour

Definition

National definition

The following definitions of terms were agreed by the Safe and Supportive Schools communities Management Group, which is a national committee supported by the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEEDYA) with representatives from all Australian education jurisdictions.

Bullying

Bullying is repeated verbal, physical or social behavior that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. Cyber-bullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies.

Conflict or fights between equals and single incidents are not regarded as bullying.

Bullying in any form or for any reason can have long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders.

Bullying may take a variety of forms including:

- Technological (e.g. cyber-bullying, mobile phones or email)
- Physical (e.g. fighting, pushing)
- Verbal (e.g. name calling, offensive language)
- Psychological (e.g. threats of reprisal, belittling comments)
- Victimisation (e.g. stand-over tactics, hiding or damaging property)
- Racial (e.g. can include comments about a person's body, cultural and family background), sexual (e.g. using rude names, sexually orientated jokes, drawings).

Link: This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Caritas College Behaviour Education Policy.

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