

BULLYING

SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL POLICY ON BULLYING

It is expected that Saint Joseph School will be a safe environment where students can learn and teachers can teach in a warm and welcoming place, free from bullying, intolerance and violence. Our School has a specific anti-bullying action plan tailored to meet the needs of our community.

DEFINITION: Bullying is a pattern of repeated, aggressive behavior meant to cause discomfort to another person; it involves an imbalance of power. It is different than normal peer conflict. Bullying may be verbal, physical or social. In fact, any repeated action that makes a student feel uncomfortable, insecure or threatened may be defined as bullying. Saint Joseph School does not tolerate bullying and considers it a most serious offence.

ACTION PLAN:

PARTICIPATION:

All community members, including the principal, teachers, support staff, parents and the student body are required to report incidents of suspected bullying to the principal. The policy must be whole school – we must approach the problem consistently. Any community member approached on a bullying issue must not ignore it, but follow through to ensure resolution.

PREVENTION

- Regular, sequential instruction be provided to our students which develops awareness of what bullying is
- Provide students with strategies on how to respond to bullying, developing empathy and compassion for others and developing positive ways to resolve disagreements or conflicts be carried out throughout the School Year
- Communication of behavioral expectations for students, parents, teachers, and staff
- Implementation of Behavioral expectation and consequence for bullying

RESPONSE STRATEGIES:

- Bullying must be reported to school administration. Each reported case of alleged bullying behavior will be investigated.
- Interviews / counseling of bully / victim by principal
- The Principal will inform the parents of the students involved in the incident, both bully and victim.
- Consequences for verified bullying behavior will be invoked
- An interview with parents of the students involved may take place.
- When appropriate, involve outside agencies to provide further support for victim and / or bully.
- Report of the bullying investigation must be documented by the principal and records of the incident retained in accordance with the Personal Information and Privacy Act.

CONSEQUENCES THAT MAY BE IMPOSED ON A BULLY:

- Community service
- Removal of privileges or activities
- Detention
- In-school suspension
- Out of School suspension
- Expulsion

STAFF MUST DEAL IMMEDIATELY WITH ANY INCIDENT THEY WITNESS, EITHER IN THEIR OWN CLASSROOM OR AROUND THE SCHOOL

COMMUNICATION IS ESSENTIAL AND SUSPECTED BULLYING MUST BE REPORTED TO THE PRINCIPAL.

Resources:

Ministry of Education. 1999. Focus on Bullying: A Prevention Program for Elementary School Communities. Victoria: Province of British Columbia.

Garrity, Carla, et. al. Bully Proofing Your School. Longmont, Colorado, Sopris West, 2000.

