



# Mater Dei

Catholic Primary School - Wagga Wagga

Reviewed 2019

## One in Spirit

### **Anti-Bullying Policy**

#### **Vision and Mission Statement**

In conjunction with our Pastoral Care, Serious Offences, Self-Esteem and Codes of Conduct Policies monitoring for the occurrence of bullying incidents is a whole school approach.

Bullying behaviour is defined as intentional, repeated behaviour by an individual or group of individuals that causes distress, hurt or undue pressure.

At Mater Dei Primary School we work as a whole school to ensure a safe environment that unambiguously sends a message to all members of the school community that bullying behaviour is totally unacceptable.

Mater Dei Primary School takes positive steps towards reducing bullying by:

- Raising awareness – with parents, teachers, students
- Developing a supportive climate
- Training children in assertiveness and general self-esteem
- Teachers practising active 'Duty Of Care'
- Establishing clear rules both in the classroom and on the playground
- Dealing with issues swiftly and communicating clearly with all parties involved
- Teaching the behaviours that counter bullying and develop resilience
- Modeling respectful and positive working relations with others

Bullying involves the abuse of power in relationships. Bullying involves all forms of harassment (including sex, race, disability, sexual orientation), humiliation, domination and intimidation of others,

Bullying behaviour can be:

- Verbal eg. name calling, teasing, abuse, putdowns, sarcasm, insults, threats
- Physical eg. hitting, punching, kicking, scratching, tripping, spitting
- Social eg. ignoring, excluding, ostracising, alienating, making inappropriate gestures
- Psychological eg. spreading rumours, 'dirty looks', hiding or damaging possessions, malicious SMS and email messages, inappropriate use of camera phones.

### **Anti-Bullying Plan**

When working with the students in the classroom or as we move around the school or when on playground duty, staff will –

- Watch for early signs of distress in the students
- Report all incidents or suspected incidents to the Principal
- Offer the victim immediate support and help
- Work with the perpetrator to change behaviour
- Use all children as a positive resource in countering bullying by providing strategies for them to use and take time to discuss the problem in class and at assemblies

All accessible areas of the school need to be monitored by a staff member during breaks and before and after school.

The students will be encouraged to report all incidents of bullying to a teacher or the Principal

- Student sent to Principal
- Principal investigates details of incident
- A restorative session/s is held
- Parents of the harmer and the harmed are contacted
- As necessary a support plan is developed with the family
- Counselling is offered as a form of support and intervention
- External support is explored as necessary
- If the bullying continues, after consultation with CEDWW, the Diocesan anti-bullying procedures implemented, eg. suspension, exclusion and expulsion

For review 2023