



# St Michaels Primary School

55 Methul St COOLAMON 2701

Phone - (02)69273483 Fax - (02)69273 676 Mobile - 0427 273 483

Email - info@smc.wagga.catholic.edu.au

## Bullying and Teasing Policy

Bullying will not be tolerated at St Michael's.

There are countless definitions of bullying but all definitions include these parameters:

### **Bullying:**

- Can be repetitive - prolonged over time or a one time serious incident
- Involves an imbalance of power
- May be verbal, physical, social or psychological
- May be an attitude rather than an "action".

### **Examples of Bullying**

- Name-calling
- Hitting, punching or kicking
- Threatening
- Sending hurtful notes
- Deliberately ignoring or excluding
- Teasing
- Rumour / Scandal mongering
- Interfering with the property of others
- Sexual innuendo and harassment
- Cyber Bullying

### **Strategies that will be used at St. Michael's to deter Bullies**

- Active supervision of the yard.
- Professional Development programmes for teachers.
- Awareness raising exercises in the curriculum about the impact of bullying and conflict resolution through PDHPE Syllabus and more particularly the You Can do It programme.
- Small group and individual counselling of victims of bullying.
- Counselling of children who bully others and encouragement for them to change their behaviour.
- Parent Education Programmes
- A hierarchy of appropriate responses developed to apply to particular situations.

### **Objectives of our Policy**

All strategies are based on the Catholic notion of Reconciliation and Growth.

- To raise awareness among staff, students and parents about bullying.
- To reduce the amount of bullying that occurs at St. Michael's.
- To assist students to resolve conflicts and differences without bullying.
- To create a school environment where all students and staff feel safe and welcome.
- To create a climate where it is okay to talk about bullying to people who can help, ie: parents, teachers, and older students.

### **Information for Parents**

If your child reports being teased intimidated or threatened (verbally or physically), treat the concern seriously. Children's perspectives are very different from adults. What adults perceive as minor incidents may be very distressing for children.

Encourage your child to talk about how she / he is feeling about the situation. Remind your child that nothing is so awful that we can't talk with someone about it.

Please contact your child's Teacher if you detect any signs of unhappiness in your child or if you are concerned about aggressive, intimidating or anti-social behaviour that your child is exhibiting.

Please be assured that the matter will be dealt with in a sensitive and caring manner. The school is anxious to support families.

A range of brochures and pamphlets are available through Centacare.



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