

Implementation Considerations

1. The development of self-discipline will be enhanced by use of positive structured guidelines.
2. Students have the right to learn and be shown respect by others, and the responsibility for their own behaviour.
3. Students will be encouraged to appreciate that all inappropriate behaviours have consequences.
4. Teachers have the right to teach and be shown respect by students, and the responsibility to act with care and concern for all students.
5. Parents agree to work in partnership with the school in the best interests of their child and all other students.
7. Parents have the right to be consulted about their child's behaviour and the responsibility to consult with, and support their child's teacher.
8. All members of the community will accept, abide by and be responsible to the school rules, codes of behaviour and policies, including those regarding curriculum, discipline, dress, conduct and well being and will support these school expectations and policies in the interest of the wellbeing of the whole school community.
9. Support services will be sourced and, where possible, made available to all school community members.

How to help my child if they say they were bullied at school?

There may be times when your child comes home and says they were "bullied". This word has a lot of emotions attached to it and can sometimes cause reactions which may be detrimental to the situation. Consider the following things if your child has concerns regarding bullying:

- Watch for signs of distress in your child. There could be an unwillingness to attend school, a pattern of headaches or stomach aches, equipment that has gone missing, request for extra pocket money, damaged clothing or bruising.
- Take an active interest in your child's social life.
- If you think your child is being bullied inform their teacher or principal immediately.
- Keep a written record if the bullying persists: Who, What, Where and When?
- Tell your child that there is nothing wrong with them and that what is happening to them is not OK.
- Do **NOT** encourage your child to hit back or respond verbally.
- Parent/Carers of the students involved will be contacted by the school. At this time the incident and future actions will be outlined.

23 Creek Street, WALKERSTON

PO BOX 313 4751

Phone: 49 592445

Fax: 49 592104

E-mail: sjwa@rok.catholic.edu.au

St. John's
CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL



WALKERSTON

Anti-Bullying

At St John's Catholic Primary School we promote an anti-bullying culture by:

- *The Principal and teachers discussing anti-bullying with each year level;*
- *Implementing the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum;*
- *Promoting opportunities for learning with regard to anti-bullying including the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence;*
- *Having a suite of Pastoral Care Policies and Procedure based on restorative justice;*
- *Including parents in the anti bullying process.*

WHAT WE DO

Anti-bullying

The school community of St John's Catholic Primary School—students, staff, parents and friends—have rights and responsibilities. Our aim is to develop a nurturing and supportive environment where a culture of safety is promoted. The establishment of respectful relationships is critical in protecting and supporting a school culture of safety. It is important that our school community develops quality relationships, nurtures social and life skills and fosters emotional resilience.

Definition

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton (CEDR), in its Anti-bullying Policy, defines bullying as:

"...repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour 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."

It is important, also, to be aware that bullying is not:

- Mutual arguments or disagreements
- Single episodes of social rejection, dislike, nastiness or spite
- Random acts of aggression or intimidation.

(Michael Carr-Gregg, 2010, National Centre Against Bullying)

Diocesan Policy

A Diocesan **Anti-bullying** policy exists to assist schools and families clarify implementation strategies when dealing with bullying.

For further information, all Diocesan policies are available from our Diocesan Catholic Education Office website

<http://www.rok.catholic.edu.au/>



The process to support a student who is bullied:

1. Acknowledge the incident and reassure the student
2. Gather information about the incident
3. Make a plan with the student to ensure their safety
4. Follow up with the student
5. Consider restorative interventions
6. Share information with parents/carer

Intervening and Supporting students

Those who are observers or bystanders to incidents of bullying behaviour:

At times bullying behaviours are strongly encouraged implicitly or explicitly by those who witness the incident. Bystanders will be questioned on their role in the incident and what steps they could have taken to ensure all students feel safe.

Those who have displayed bullying behaviour:

All students need the guidance of adults (both parents/ guardians and teachers) in developing the skills necessary for getting along with others. While inappropriate or hurtful behaviour must clearly be stopped, the ultimate goal of any form of intervention is behaviour change. Behaviour change requires children to have the opportunity to reflect on their mistakes and to learn alternative, more socially appropriate behaviour.

School procedure for dealing with bullying

LEVEL 1 RESPONSE

(For incidents where bullying behaviour is first evident)

The first response to a situation where bullying may occur is that of a pastoral nature. The victim(s) would be listened to. They would be asked to make a statement of the incidents leading up to their report. Support would be offered to them to reassure them of

their safety as well as acknowledging the strength of character taken to report the incident.

The bully/bullies would be listened to and asked to submit an account of the situation(s).

The Principal and students' teacher would mediate with the bully/bullies and the victim(s). The Principal will contact all parents/guardians to inform them of the incident. The Principal will speak to the 'bully's' parent(s) about their behaviour and request that the message is reinforced at home. It would be expected that after this time, any incident surrounding bullying type behaviour would cease.

LEVEL 2 RESPONSE

(For incidents where bullying behaviour is repeated)

As per Level 1 response where statements received and mediation discussions occur. Very clear expectations are set for bully enforcing that the behaviour is not acceptable. The Principal will contact all parents to inform them of the incident and about the school's response, which may include but not limited to lost detentions, internal or external suspension. It will also be discussed how the school and parents/ guardians can work together in helping their child to learn other ways of better interacting with peers.

LEVEL 3 RESPONSE

(For incidents where bullying behaviour is frequent or more serious in nature. This may involve suspension or exclusion of the student)
Further to Level 2 Response, and depending upon the circumstances of the incident, the following reports and referrals may be appropriate:

- Catholic Education Office.
- Guidance Counsellor, mental health services etc.
- Queensland Police (if of a serious and/or of criminal nature)
- At this point discussions may also be had regarding the student's (bully) ongoing enrolment at the school.