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.

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.

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.
6. Parents have the right to be consulted about their child’s behaviour and the responsibility to consult with, and support their child’s teacher.
7. 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.
8. Support services will be sourced and, where possible, made available to all school community members.

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Anti-Bullying
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-Greg, 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/