

# Anti-bullying Policy



**Channel**  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

*Love to Learn, Learn to Love*

## Document Details

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# Definition

Bullying is intentional, repeated behavior by an individual or group which causes distress or hurt to another person.

Bullying can take many forms:

- Physical - hitting, pushing, tripping, kicking, spitting
- Verbal - writing notes, teasing, name calling, ridiculing, put downs and spreading rumours
- Non-Verbal - rude gestures and body language
- Exclusion - deliberately excluding others
- Extortion - threatening to take someone's things or food
- Property - stealing, hiding, damaging or destroying someone's things
- Cyber Bullying - inappropriate use of social media, teasing, name calling, ridiculing, put downs and spreading rumours via email

At Channel Christian School we affirm that all children are created in the image of God and are unique, valued and loved. We believe that every child has the right to learn, work and play in a respectful, safe and caring environment which does not tolerate bullying





## Signs and Symptoms

A student may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- Is frightened of walking to or from the school car park
- Doesn't want to go on the school bus
- Begs to be walked into school
- Changes
- Is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- Begins truanting
- Becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- Starts stammering
- Attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- Feels ill in the morning
- Begins to do poorly in school work
- Comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- Has possessions go "missing"
- Asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises
- Comes home starving (lunch has been stolen)
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- Is bullying other children or siblings
- Stops eating
- Is frightened to say what's wrong
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

# Responsibilities

At Channel respect for others is consistently taught and demonstrated. Our Christian values will be continually affirmed in words and actions.

## Prevention

We will use appropriate methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- Explicit teaching at each level about social behaviour and bullying
- Discussing the school rules in class and discussions about bullying and why it matters
- Signing a behaviour contract
- Writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- Reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- Making up role-plays
- Digital Technologies - students are explicitly taught how to communicate respectfully online
- Students sign their user agreements

## Teachers

Teachers will:

- Create an environment where students care for, respect and accept each other
- Teach the students how to respond to bullying, empowering them to stand up for themselves
- Pray with and work through repentance, forgiveness and restoration where relationships have been damaged
- Use the Bounce Back program to teach awareness of what bullying is, resilience and help students to cope with difficult situations
- Participate in Bullying 'No Way'

## Principal

The Principal will:

- Support all staff in dealing with any bullying issues
- Take an active role in working in partnership with parents to resolve issues with bullying

## Students

Students will:

- Have clear expectations that bullying is not acceptable behaviour
- Know steps to follow if bullied
  1. Ignore and walk away
  2. Hold hand up, looking person in the eye and saying, 'Stop, I don't like ...'
  3. Tell a teacher
- Report to teacher or Principal if they are being bullied or see others being bullied
- Be co-operative in sorting out issues of bullying and hold each other accountable

## Parents

Parents will:

- Be familiar with the Anti-bullying Policy
- Contact Teacher or Principal if they suspect their child or another child is being bullied or being a bully
- Be willing to work in partnership with the Teacher or Principal to deal with bullying issues

## Responding to Bullying

When an incidence of bullying is observed or reported, the teacher will:

- Listen to both sides of the story
- Use questions of what, where, when, who and why - dealing with the conflict in a non-aggressive manner
- Speak individually to both the child displaying bullying behaviour and target of bullying, supporting and working through the issue with them
- Record the incident and action taken in SEQTA
- Implement appropriate consequences
- Inform the Principal
- Parents will be asked to meet with teacher and Principal if bullying continues so that the action taken at school may be supported and reinforced at home

## Consequences

Consequences for bullying will be determined by Teacher or Principal. These may include:

- Apology - verbal or written
- Exclusion from play or activity
- Community service
- Referral to School Counsellor, following consultation with parents



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