

Sacred Heart NS Anti-Bullying Policy

Bullying is repeated insinuation, intimidation or aggression, be it verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by an individual or group against others, their space or their property.

Indications of Bullying \ Behaviour:

- Anxiety about travelling to \ from school.
- Unwillingness to go to school.
- Deterioration in educational performance.
- Pattern of physical illnesses.
- Unexplained changes in either mood \ behaviour.
- Visible signs of anxiety \ distress.
- Possessions missing.
- Increased requests for money.
- Unexplained bruising.
- Reluctance and \ or refusal to say what is troubling him \ her.

Procedures for noting and reporting incidents:

- (a) All reports of bullying should be noted, investigated and dealt with by the class teacher so that pupils will gain confidence in telling.
- (b) A separate Bullying Incident note will be made in the annual diary, provided by BOM each year for each teacher.
- (c) Red / yellow cards (c/f Code of Behaviour) issued in relation to Bullying will be pasted into these diaries.
- (d) Serious cases should be referred immediately to the Principal.
- (e) Parents \ guardians should be informed by the Principal earlier rather than later.
- (f) Parents \ guardians must be informed of the appropriate person to whom they can make their enquiries regarding bullying.
- (g) Pupils must understand that reporting is not 'telling tales.'
- (h) Individual teachers should record and take appropriate measures in accordance with policy.
- (i) Non-teaching staff should be encouraged to report incidents. Discretion is important.

Procedures for investigating and dealing with bullying:

1. Calm, unemotional problem-solving approach.
2. Incidents best investigated outside the classroom situation.
3. Teacher should speak separately to the pupils involved.
4. Answers should be sought to questions of What, Where, When, Who and Why
5. Members of a gang should be met individually and as a group.
6. Meet parents \ guardians of parties involved.

Programme for work with pupils:

Learning strategies should allow for the enhancement of each pupil's self-worth. Particular emphasis is placed on

1. "Alive O-4" series "I am the greatest"
2. NWHB RSE Programme
3. Stay Safe.

A “Positive Behaviour Week” is held each year to promote self worth and focus on positive behaviour amongst the pupils and staff alike.

Following a year long process focussing on empowering pupils to deal with unacceptable behaviour / attention of their peers, the “Stop, Stop, Tell, Tell, Talk, Talk” strategy was adopted in May 2010. Details of this strategy was forwarded to the parents / guardians of all pupils enrolled in SHNS on that date.

1. In the first instance of “bullying / unacceptable behaviour” the “bully” is told to STOP.
2. If such behaviour is repeated the “bully” is told again to “STOP.”
3. If such behaviour is repeated the child being “bullied” is to “TELL” the class teacher.
4. If such behaviour is repeated the child being “bullied” is to “TELL” an adult at home.
5. If such behaviour is repeated the child being “bullied” is asked to get an adult from home to “TALK” to the class teacher.
6. If such behaviour is repeated the child being “bullied” is asked to get an adult from home to make an appointment to “TALK” to the principal teacher.

Posters displaying “Stop, Stop, Tell, Tell, Talk, Talk” are in each class with corresponding stickers on the cover of each child’s Homework Journal.