

CTK School Bullying Policy

Rationale

Bullying is defined as the misuse of power, position and privilege. It is done to intimidate, coerce, and engender fear and to control. Bullying can take the form of any of the following:

- Physical – pushing, kicking, hitting and other forms of violence or threats;
- Verbal – name calling, spreading rumours, relentless teasing;
- Emotional – excluding a child from games or groups of friends, humiliation;
- Sexual – unwanted physical contact or abusive comments;

Bullying is NOT the same thing as conflict, violence or disagreement. With bullying there is always a *power imbalance*, which makes victimisation possible.

Bullying is different from isolated teasing incidents or playground disagreements. What makes it different is that the incidents are ongoing, and there is usually an imbalance of size, strength and power between the children involved. The bully might have power not only because he or she is bigger and stronger, but because other children side with the bully often to protect themselves.

Bullying affects everyone, not just bullies and their victims. It also affects those who may witness violence, intimidation and distress of the victim. It can damage the atmosphere of a class and even the climate of a school.

We at Christ the King School believe that as each person is created in the image of God then promotion of respect for the human person should be paramount.

In accordance with the school mission statement, we aim to:

- Promote gospel values;
- Promote a spirit of love, concern and forgiveness;
- Promote a sense of real worth and belonging for each individual;
- Value the dignity of the human person and to develop their full potential;
- Foster a respect for all individuals and their property
- Acknowledge and value differences as characteristic of the human person; and
- Acknowledge each member of the community as an individual growing in knowledge and understanding.

Policy Statement

At Christ the King school, students are entitled to achieve their maximum potential free from humiliation, oppression and abuse. Bullying is unacceptable behaviour that is incongruent with the values of the school and will not be tolerated. Every effort will be made by the Principal, staff, students and parents to eliminate bullying behaviour from the school.

In pursuit of the above we will:

- Foster a respect for all individuals and their property;
- Provide a safe and secure environment;
- Provide a physical environment which engenders good behaviour patterns; and
- Provide strong, fair and consistent responses to eliminate bullying/harassment.

Implementation

All cases and allegations of harassment or bullying will be reported through the staff to the Principal, who will follow the school's Bullying Procedures and Guidelines Document to the benefit of all those involved, including those bullying and those being bullied.

Conclusion

Regular reviews of the Christ the King School Bullying Policy will be undertaken to ensure optimal safety for students and staff.