



BULLYING STANDARDS POLICY

Bullying amongst students in an educational setting is an issue which St Edward's College takes a very active stance to minimise and create an attitude amongst staff and students where it is not accepted, in any form.

Definition of Bullying

Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening.

Bullying is generally accepted to take three various forms –

1. Overt (face to face) Bullying : usually takes the form of physical violence or verbal abuse. Overt bullying is the easiest form for adults to detect and less likely to be hidden from parents, guardians and other adults who are associated with the students such as Teachers.
2. Covert (hidden) Bullying : as by the name this is usually hidden from adults. The behaviour associated with this type of bullying can take the form of spreading rumours, social exclusion, threats, blackmail and so on. Covert bullying is as significant in its impact as physical and verbal attacks.
3. Cyber Bullying : online bullying is another and very significant form of covert bullying. Cyber bullying is extremely difficult for adults to detect. Cyber bullying uses social media, private forums and devices to humiliate or intimidate. Being online the exposure of this exercise can be made to potentially a very wide and diverse audience withing the student life. Cyber bullying also, therefore, creates many more “by-standers” to the act of bullying.

Implementation

At St Edward's College the prevention and intervention of bullying is addressed via a holistic and whole-school approach. The College uses education combined with strong student engagement to create value in having a safe and inclusive school environment. St Edwards strives to creates a College community with a clear sense of respect and acceptance for all students and staff, where negative behaviours are identified, named and discouraged, not only by staff but in the peer community as well.

As an Edmund Rice College, St Edward's places importance upon a caring and restorative approach to educating and assisting students involved with bullying. Restorative Justice sessions assist the students in repairing the harm caused by bullying and aim to prevent further harm from occurring.

Bullying is a matter managed via our Pastoral Care Team. This team is made up of Pastoral Leaders for each year group in the College, Director of Pastoral Care, Wellbeing Leader, Deputy Principal and the School Counselling team. All these professionals are involved in the management, administration, development and care of student within this program.





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Further Information

If you would like information as to the specific procedures of the program, Student and Staff Code of Conduct or Behaviour Management Policy in operation at St Edward's please contact Sarah Deacon, Risk and Compliance Officer at 02 4321 6400.

Ref1 <https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/WhatIsBullying/DefinitionOfBullying>

Ref2 www.cese.nsw.gov.au Anti Bullying interventions in schools – what works ?

