



## 'HANDS OFF' POLICY

St Edward's College is committed to the promotion of the values that underpin the EREA Touchstone of Inclusive Community. We are a welcoming community that is accepting of others and is dedicated to fostering respectful relationships. The 'Hands Off' Policy at St Edward's College is designed to preserve the dignity, safety and wellbeing of all members of our community. The policy requires students to refrain from physically touching another student and/or their property. Appropriate physical greetings are not included in this rule.

The College will not condone any form of violence. Students who are found to be engaging in **any** physical conflict will be suspended from classes until the matter is investigated and resolved.

The following forms of behaviour are examples of breaches of the 'Hands Off' rule:

- Interfering with the property of others (including locker padlocks, school bags, electronic devices and books) without the consent of the owner.
- Bullying or any other kind of stand-over tactics.
- Throwing, kicking, flicking, slapping, or the spitting of objects in the yard or class.
- Rumbling (either aggressively or in play).
- Contact sports before, after school and during recess and lunch breaks.
- Deliberately tripping or any action that causes another person harm.
- Pushing, shouldering, shoving and grabbing other students by their clothing or bag.
- Fighting; punching, slapping, kicking and wrestling.
- Any other physical action that compromises the **dignity, safety or wellbeing** of others.

**Note:** Those students who promote and encourage physical conflict are also in breach of College rules.

Breaches of the 'Hands off' Policy will be reported to the relevant Pastoral Leader or the Director of Pastoral Care. Incidents will be investigated, ensuring procedural fairness for all parties, including communication with parents/caregivers if required. Consultation between the Pastoral Leader and the Director of Pastoral Care will take place before a consequence is applied. Such consequences may involve withdrawal of the students(s) playground privileges and or detention. More serious incidents may result in a suspension (internal or external) to be determined at the time. Should the incident be deemed critical\* the Principal and Deputy Principal will be informed.

\*A "**Critical Incident**" is any actual or alleged event or situation that creates a significant risk of substantial or serious harm to the physical or mental health, safety or wellbeing of a member of the school community.

The Principal reserves the right, when necessary, to make direct decisions in relation to breaches of the 'Hands Off' Policy and has the final decision in relation to all student management matters.