

## St. Brigid's Catholic Primary School Bullying Policy Statement

- Title:** Prevention of Bullying Behaviour Policy
- Purpose:** To provide a consistent approach to address bullying behaviour as soon as it is identified and to work to prevent and to eliminate bullying at St Brigid's.
- Context:** It is the right of all members of St Brigid's to be able to share a safe and secure environment at school. Staff, parents and children have a responsibility to ensure that all have an opportunity to grow, develop and learn in a safe and happy school environment.

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;
- . Social and Psychological – excluding a child from games or groups of friends, humiliation.

Bullying can be:

- . overt (sometimes referred to as face-to-face or direct bullying).
- . covert (sometimes referred to as indirect bullying)
- . cyber.

See the school's [Anti Bullying Information](#) brochure for more detail. The brochure is available from the office or on the school's website under the Parent Information tab.

Bullying is NOT the same thing as conflict, violence or disagreement. With bullying there is always a power balance, 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 also because other children side with the bully often to protect themselves.

Bullying results in loss of self-esteem, dignity and respect for the individuals concerned and it creates discord within the school community. There are negative consequences for the person being bullied, the person bullying and people who witness bullying. While bullying behaviour may be understood, it is never acceptable at St Brigid's.

- Policy:** The staff of St Brigid's Primary School will act promptly and firmly to address bullying behaviour as soon as it is identified and to continually work to prevent bullying occurring. Students will be empowered to resist and reduce bullying behaviour through education and peer modelling.

- Implementation:** All cases and allegations of harassment or bullying will be reported through the staff to the Principal, who will follow the school's Anti Bullying Information procedures to the benefit of all those involved, including those bullying and those being bullied.

- Conclusion:** Regular reviews of the St. Brigid's Catholic Primary School Prevention of Bullying Behaviour Policy will be undertaken to ensure optimal safety for students and staff.

**Effective Date:** June 2014