

School statement for Bullying Prevention

At St. John Brebeuf School part of our character education includes teaching our students that any form of bullying is not acceptable. All of us at SJB School are committed to ensuring the learning environment is safe, caring and provides our students with every opportunity to grow to their full potential - physically, socially, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually.

What is bullying?

Bullying is not normal peer conflict. "Bullying is a pattern of **repeated aggressive behaviour over time** ... directed from one child to another where there is a power imbalance." (Dr. Dan Olweus, Norwegian researcher and psychologist). Bullying can be carried out physically, verbally or socially/emotionally.

What Are Some Effects of Bullying?

The child being bullied may experience: lowered self esteem, self blame, anxiety, depression, headaches, stomach aches, avoidance of school, absenteeism, and disrupted academic achievement.

Preventative Education Program

All members of the school community must commit to prevent bullying at St. John Brebeuf School and promote a safe school climate.

Staff will:

1. Be role models in word and action.
2. With the assistance of students, identify areas in the school where bullying occurs.
3. Educate students through a Bullying Prevention Program which teaches pro-social skills, attitudes and behaviours and which clearly establishes that bullying behaviour will not be tolerated.
4. Communicate to students the effects of bullying behaviour and actions which will be taken for bullying.
5. Acknowledge pro-social behaviour among students.
6. Maintain a vigilant level of student supervision.
7. Maintain a high level of awareness when bullying is suspected.
8. Educate students to report bullying behaviour according to the school's reporting system.
9. Implement the process to investigate reports of bullying.

Once a bullying situation has been identified the following process will be implemented:

1. Intervene with the student(s) responsible for bullying.
2. Intervene to support the child who has been bullied.
3. Notify the parents of the child who has been bullied and the parents of the child who has exhibited bullying behaviour.

Students will:

1. Participate in the school-wide bullying intervention program.
2. Learn to distinguish between tattling and reporting bullying behaviour.
3. Learn and apply conflict resolution skills to resolve disputes.
4. Take their role as a responsible by-stander seriously when witness to bullying.

5. Report incidents of bullying according to the school's reporting system.



Parents will:

1. Allow and encourage their child to report and deal with peer conflicts at school and issues related to the school's code of conduct.
2. Advise their child to report incidents of bullying according to the school's policy.
3. Inform staff when their own child feels too intimidated to report a personal problem related to bullying.
4. Be willing to inform the school if any bullying is suspected.
5. Help their child understand that parental reporting is appropriate for any bullying situations at school even if their own child is not directly involved.
6. Encourage their child to not retaliate if bullied.
7. Refrain from speaking to someone else's child regarding bullying behaviour but rather speak with school personnel unless you witness a possibility of injury to a child.

The school recommends that parents:

- Watch their child for signs of distress that may be due to bullying at school.
- Take an active interest in what their child is learning at school in the Bullying Prevention Program.
- Take an active interest in their child's social life and promote their child's positive social interactions with others at school.
- Establish clear rules against bullying at home.

Intervention Process for Bullying Behaviour

1. Immediate intervention by a school staff member who witnesses bullying.
2. The staff member who receives a report of bullying behaviour will begin the investigative process to gather additional information.

Once bullying behaviour is identified:

3. The teacher or principal will intervene with the child who has bullied to reinforce the expected behaviour and intervene with appropriate action.
4. The teacher or principal will intervene to support the child who has been bullied.
5. The parents of the child who has bullied will be informed by the teacher or principal. The parents will be involved in the intervention and resolution.
6. The parents of the child who has been bullied will be informed by the teacher or principal and parents will be involved in the support process of their child.
7. If the bullying behaviour is repeated the parents of the bully will be informed and the bully will have a further consequence. Depending on the age of the child, and at the discretion of the principal, an in school suspension will be given with a review of the desired social skills.

8. If the bullying behaviour continues parents will be informed and an out of school suspension will be given, at the discretion of the principal.

Reporting Bullying:

1. All students will report bullying incidents to their classroom teacher, the principal or another staff member.
2. Students may choose to report bullying behaviour they have experienced or witnessed at school in writing.
3. The report must be signed and may be placed in the "School Information Box".
4. The "Information Box" will also be used to report positive interactions at school.

If all students refuse to be a part of bullying and have the courage to speak out if they witness bullying, or are being bullied, we will have a bully free school.

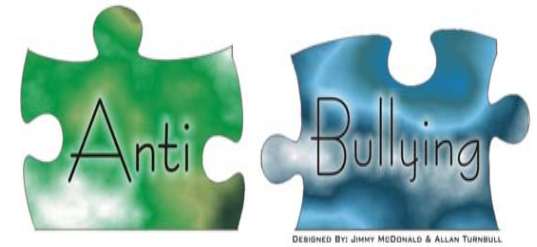


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Let's Complete The Puzzle



Together