



## Bullying Policy

Revised: 2011

Due for Review: 2016

### **VISION STATEMENT**

Matthew Gibney Catholic Primary School Community is committed to nurturing the potential of all members as they follow Christ's example within an environment where self-worth and individual success are highly valued.

### **DEFINITION**

#### ***What is Bullying?***

Bullying is a demonstration of negative behaviour that causes anxiety and distress. This behaviour is *repetitive* and *creates an imbalance of power*.

Bullying can also be an attitude as well as an action.

Examples of bullying behaviour:

- Verbal – name calling, threats, put-downs
- Physical – negative body language, hitting, punching, tripping, kicking, biting
- Social – deliberate exclusion from the group, ignoring
- Emotional – pursuing, spreading rumours, hiding and/or damaging possessions
- Inappropriate use of SMS and Cyber bullying
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### **RATIONALE**

The essence of our relationship with each other is underpinned by the Gospel Values of:

- Responsibility
- Cooperation
- Prayer
- Truthfulness
- Loyalty
- Independence
- Self Esteem
- Mutual Respect

In accordance with these Gospel Values and the Vision Statement Matthew Gibney Catholic Primary School states that any form of bullying is totally unacceptable behaviour.



# Matthew Gibney Catholic Primary School

## **PRINCIPLES**

The School aims to further the education and well-being of each student.

To ensure this, students have both rights and responsibilities.

Students are responsible for their own actions and are obliged to see that the rights of every other person in the school is guaranteed.

### ***Rights***

Each student has the right to learn without being disrupted by others.

Each student has a right to be treated courteously and respectfully.

Each student has a right to work in a safe environment.

Each student has a right to feel proud of the School and themselves.

### ***Responsibilities***

No student should interfere with any other student's learning.

Students should treat all members of the school community with courtesy and respect.

Students should not endanger others by word or action.

Students should act in ways that help build a good public image of the School.

## **PROCEDURES**

### ***What a student can do if bullied:***

- Try to ignore the behaviour.
- Keep away from the person/s.
- Ask them not to do it.
- Stop any behaviour that may make you a victim.
- Talk/draw about it with friends or family.
- Tell the teacher and ask for help.



# Matthew Gibney Catholic Primary School

## ***Procedures for staff when dealing with bullying:***

- Inappropriate behaviour from child explaining behaviour
- Individual / group counselling
- Withdrawal from school activities (e.g. excursions)
- Inform Principal
- Inform parents and arrange an interview if required
- In – school suspension
- Out –of – school suspension
- Professional help
- Exclusion

The Principal may take any action deemed necessary at the time.

## **STRATEGIES**

### ***Promotion of Self Esteem***

Some examples of strategies which may be used by staff to promote positive self-esteem are:

- Friendship awards.
- Christian Living Awards
- Honour Certificates
- Acknowledging Birthdays
- 'In class' Awards
- Special Duties

### ***School & Classroom Rules***

To protect the students, an appropriate set of rules which support the rationale and principles of this policy will operate in the school. Matthew Gibney's Bullying Policy reflects the key elements of NSSF (National Safe Schools Framework).



# Matthew Gibney Catholic Primary School

## ***Teaching Strategies***

- Teach skills and techniques through Collaborative Learning activities and Role-playing such as PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies)
- Present literature, videos and incursions (e.g. Bully Busters)
- Small group and individual counselling.
- Active supervision during school hours ( 8:30 – 3:30 )
- Cybersafety

## ***Other Strategies***

- Staff Professional Development
- Support for parents
- Specialist help in formal and informal occasions as required
- Bullying Policy placed on school website
- School Psychologist
- Internet & mobile phone safety information for parents

## ***Parents, You Can Help By:***

- Encouraging your child to discuss their day
- Role – modelling positive attitudes
- Looking out for signs that something may be wrong. For example:
  - child not wanting to go to school
  - underachieving academically
  - loss of self-confidence
- Monitoring your child's use of the internet and mobile phones

Initiate and maintain contact with your child's teacher and advise them of any concerns.