The role of all students

All students at Saint Mark’s College have a responsibility to create a safe and happy learning environment. Any student witnessing bullying or harassment needs to take appropriate action:

Say ‘No!’ or ‘Stop it!’ firmly
Walk away
Try to act unaffected or ignore the person
Talk to a trusted adult at the school or at home
Ask friends, parents or teachers for their help to deal with the issue safely

If you see someone else being bullied, and feel safe to do so, you can:

refuse to join in
not watch
tell the person doing the bullying to stop
say something supportive to the person who is being bullied or invite them to join your group
say to the person being bullied that the other person’s behaviour is not okay.

If you are being cyberbullied, and you feel safe to do so:

don’t respond to the message or image
save the evidence as a screenshot if you wish to use it as part of dealing with the bullying
block the sender and delete the message
report the situation to the website or ISP
talk to trusted people—friends, adults, teachers, parents and police, if necessary

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‘To Enlighten and Inspire’
BULLYING AND HARASSMENT TYPES

There are many ways in which you can be harassed – these are a broad set of examples. Often types of bullying and harassment may involve more than one type.

PHYSICAL

- Fighting, pushing, scratching, shoving, offensive gestures, spitting, invasion of personal space, throwing things, stand-over tactics, damage to property etc.

VERBAL

- Name calling, offensive language, sarcasm, insults, threats, comments about the size and shape of your body.
- Slander: spreading rumours, writing unpleasant notes etc.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

- Threats of reprisal, put-downs, domination by one or more persons, intimidation, exclusion, ganging up on a person.
- Social: ignoring, excluding, ostracising, alienating.

RACIAL

- Can include name calling, belittling jokes and remarks about a person’s body, cultural and family background, graffiti on personal property and physical attacks, telling jokes or showing offensive material, isolation, name calling because of race etc.

SEXUAL

- Deliberately touching or brushing against a person after being asked to stop this behaviour.
- Telling offensive jokes or showing offensive material.
- Critical remark or comment or exclusion by gender
- Unwelcome staring, whistling, gestures, innuendo or comments about a person’s body or sexuality.
- Asking questions about your private life, spreading rumours.

TECHNOLOGICAL

- Can include abuse and harassment via chat rooms, facebook, snap-chat, instagram, blogs, email, SMS, mobile phones etc.

WHY DO WE NEED A “POLICY” ON BULLYING AND HARASSMENT?

Any form of harassment is both illegal and un-Christian.

At Saint Mark’s College staff and parents believe that students should not have their education and development hindered by bullying and/or harassment.

We are all equal before God. Everyone has the right to be treated as worthwhile and important. We all have the right to work and learn in a safe, enjoyable environment.

Bullying and/or harassment and/or discriminatory behaviours destroy this environment. Saint Mark’s College is committed to preserving the dignity of each person and providing an environment in which all students feel safe and are safe.

DESCRIPTION

The National Safe Schools Framework defines bullying as repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. Cyberbullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies, e.g. the internet or mobile devices. Conflicts or fights between equals and single incidents are not defined as bullying.

In short, bullying is a repeated pattern of harmful verbal, physical or social behaviour which involves the misuse of power. Cyberbullying is bullying through the internet or mobile devices.

Not all aggressive or harmful behaviour between people is bullying. While conflicts and aggressive behaviour need to be addressed, it is important to be clear when these behaviours are not actually bullying.

The definition of bullying has three critical aspects - a repeated pattern, the misuse of power within relationships, and behaviour which causes harm; all three aspects need to be present in order for behaviour to be called bullying.

OUR VISION

In the tradition of Don Bosco where we live by reason, religion and loving kindness.

All members of the community at Saint Mark’s College are called:

- To bear witness to God’s love;
- To promote justice in our local community and the wider community;
- To create an environment where the dignity of each person is respected;
- To respond to the Gospel call to continuing conversion of heart;
- To reflect and promote a spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation.

OUR BELIEFS

At Saint Mark’s College the conditions of enrolment clearly state the expectations of students:

- We believe students are responsible in nurturing an environment of study through being respectful of the rights of students to learn and the right of teachers to teach;
- We believe students need to develop the ability to be self-determining in their behaviour and to be fully responsible for their actions;
- We believe as a community, that adults have responsibility to guide students in making appropriate behavioural choices.