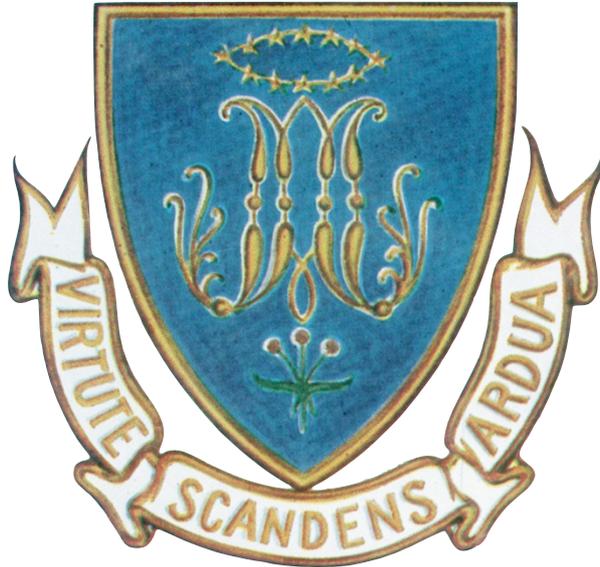


MARIST COLLEGE



ANTI BULLYING POLICY

The effect of bullying on the development of the individual has traditionally been a characteristic concern of

the management and staff of Marist College. We have at all times endeavoured to ensure such behaviour does not occur and have taken immediate remedial action when incidents of this nature have come to our attention. In this policy document we set out formally our attitude to and system of dealing with occurrences of such behaviour in our school.

Our key objective is to communicate clearly that instances of Bullying will not be tolerated and that precautionary measures are in place both to prevent the occurrences of Bullying and to deal appropriately with any case that might arise.

In Marist College we would define Bullying as:-

“Any act or conduct which is offensive, humiliating or intimidating resulting in causing physical or emotional distress to others on a regular basis.”

We recognise that Bullying manifests itself as various types of behaviour, including behaviour which may:

- Humiliate
- Intimidate
- Victimise
- Verbally abuse
- Exclude
- Isolate

In Marist College we realise that each of the following parties has a crucial role to play in preventing bullying and helping to raise awareness to it:

Senior Management:

Overall responsibility for the implementation of all school policies and deciding on actions to be taken.

Year Heads:

Responsible for coordination of Year Group. They will record and collate details of evidence obtained and will make contact with Parents.

Form Teachers:

Will liaise with a single class group. They are an ideal contact for individual students, senior prefects or Mentors when difficulties arise.

School Mentors:

A group of senior students who have been specially trained by the Midland Health Board. Each of the group is assigned to and is responsible for a small number of Junior pupils. They will liaise with Form teachers and senior management with the sole purpose of ensuring a harmonious school life for all pupils.

Senior Prefects:

Each senior prefect is assigned to a particular Form class and supervises the class during the lunch break.

Parents:

Parents of victims have a vital role to play in supporting their children and the school in its efforts to deal with the problem. Parents of bullies must also support the school's efforts to correct such undesirable behaviour.

Students:

Students normally have more knowledge than most of what is going on and they are encouraged to come forward and to behave with an expected degree of decency and tolerance towards one another.

Subject Teachers:

Have a vital role to play in maintaining a cross-curricular content which addresses issues related to bullying. In particular all First year students will follow a carefully designed modulation programme which investigates bullying as a topic during all subject lessons.

In Marist College our methods of prevention will include positive efforts to:

- Raise awareness among students of school's position on Bullying and the negative effects of such behaviour on the development of the individual.
- Foster an atmosphere in which students feel comfortable about seeking help and in which they know how to seek help.
- Make students aware of strategies for coping with Bullying.

We realise that the greatest weapon in the arsenal of the Bully is silence, in particular the silence of the victim. It is our belief that by removing this aspect of such behaviour we will succeed in minimising and indeed eliminating the problem. We recognise the crucial role our school Mentors have to play in this regard as we are aware of the reluctance of students to confide in Teachers or Parents.

When dealing with students involved in bullying incidents the school's aims are to:

- Support and counsel the victim
- Correct the behaviour of those responsible

The school acknowledges the importance of clear, constructive communication between the various parties concerned. We will make use of existing disciplinary sanctions which will be applied with a view to improving the behaviour of those responsible and which will demonstrate the school's commitment to its policies. We will immediately make contact with the parents of the victim and the alleged bully and we will provide feedback to victims, bullies and other concerned parties about progress made in dealing with the incident.