Belief Statement

We believe that in the Catholic school community of St Andrew's, the total development of the child is paramount, the dignity of the individual is respected and Christian values are reflected in teachings and practices. We are guided by the CEWA Child Safe Framework and seek to implement practices to support a child safe culture and promote the care and wellbeing of all children.

This community does not tolerate bullying or harassment. Students have the right to learn and play in a safe, friendly environment. We aim to establish a community in which everyone feels valued and safe and where individual differences are appreciated, understood and accepted.

Objectives of our Procedure

- To raise awareness among staff, students and parents about bullying/cyberbullying
- To provide students with strategies to resolve conflict and respect differences without resorting to bullying/cyberbullying
- To create a school environment where all students, staff and parents feel safe and welcome
- To create a climate where it is okay to talk about bullying/cyberbullying and ask for help
- To encourage students to develop physical/emotional wellbeing and resiliency

Never ignore bullying. Care enough to do something about it, whether it affects you personally or not. Even as an onlooker it is your responsibility to report bullying.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is any repeated behaviour, which intends to hurt, injure, embarrass, upset or frighten another person.

Cyberbullying includes text or images posted on the internet, intranet or transmitted via email or mobiles.

Bullying comes in many forms:
- Calling someone hurtful names
- Deliberately punching, hitting, bumping
- Teasing
- Spreading rumours about someone
- Deliberately ignoring, excluding or avoiding others
- Taking or damaging property
- Sending hurtful notes or inappropriate use of social media
- It may be done directly (e.g. face to face) or indirectly (e.g. via mobiles or the internet)

What students can do
Be assertive, not aggressive:
- Tell the bully to stop
- State clearly that the behaviour is unwelcome and unkind
- If they do not stop, then seek help from an adult
- You might prefer to write the incident down and give it to an adult
- Keep your password a secret and only give your phone number to those you trust
- Think before posting
- Do not open emails or text messages from people you don't know
- Do not respond
- Save evidence
- Use social media appropriately

What parents can do

Talk with your child
- Encourage constructive responses – physical bullying or name teasing should be reported
- Remind your child that hitting back or retaliating with name calling won't solve the problem
- Encourage your child to talk to a member of staff or write down the incident, and give it to a staff member
- Encourage your child to develop physical/emotional wellbeing and resiliency
- Be aware of what your child is doing on the internet and social media
- Talk to your child about responsible use of technology
- Teach your child never to post or say anything that they wouldn't want the whole world to see or read.

Discuss with staff member
Parents should report any incidents of bullying to the classroom teacher immediately.

Set an example
- Be firm and not aggressive in setting limits
- Show acceptance and tolerance of differences in others
- Model respectful, courteous behaviour
- Model conflict resolution and reconciliation

Be alert for signs of distress
Some possible indicators of bullying are:
- Unwillingness to attend school
- Dropping off in academic performance
- Damaged clothes and frequent loss of property
- Loss of confidence and mood changes
- Aggression towards siblings
- Nail biting, bed wetting, tiredness

St Andrew's CPS Staff

- Whole school approach to anti-bullying education every year
- Implementation of the Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum
- Parent information in newsletter
- Family activities sent home
- Address any bullying behaviour
- Providing quality supervision
- Reporting incidents of bullying to the Leadership team for action
- Making available to parents 'The Procedure on Bullying' on the school's website
- Teaching students conflict resolution and problem solving skills
- Offering confidence and assertiveness training to students involved in bullying incidents
- Discussing the issue of bullying regularly at staff meetings
- Cyberbullying lessons taught
- Mobile phones are handed in to the office during school hours
- Regular monitoring of student activity on the school's computers
- The school uses filters on its network
- All parents and visitors are required to sign a Code of Conduct
- All students are to follow the student code of conduct

Response Procedures to Reported Incidents

- Teacher will meet with all parties
- Restorative questioning and counselling encouraging students to reflect on their behaviour
- If appropriate to the child's age, provide an opportunity for both children to discuss the behaviour. An apology may be offered at this time
- Appropriate consequences imposed
- If appropriate, consequences may include restrictions on the use of technology at school
- Provide support for all children as required
- Meet with all parents
- Involvement of the Leadership team who will decide on further action
- Interview with the Leadership team and Parents if required

St Andrew's Catholic Primary School

Companions on the Journey

Dealing With Bullying

Information for Parents/Guardians