



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES, BAULKHAM HILLS

## Anti-Bullying Policy

### 1. RATIONALE

Bullying is any form of deliberate verbal, social, psychological or physical behaviour aimed to cause harm or distress to another person or group of people.

A person or group of people who engage in bullying tactics may be involved in isolated or repeated incidents.

In line with Gospel Values and the school's Mission Statement, Social Skills Program, Restorative Practice Program and Pastoral Care Policy, the school community at Our Lady of Lourdes does not tolerate bullying in any form and is committed to ensuring a safe and caring environment for all its members.

### 2. AIMS

- 2.1 To provide a safe, pleasant environment for all children, staff and parents.
- 2.2 To empower and support children who encounter bullying.
- 2.3 To provide children with guidelines to follow if they find themselves being bullied.
- 2.4 To provide guidance for children who resort to bullying behaviour.
- 2.5 To inform students, staff and parents about what constitutes 'bullying' and to establish procedures to deal with bullying issues.

### 3. Implementation

- 3.1 Inform staff, students and parents that bullying behaviour is not accepted at the school in any form.
- 3.2 Educate children, staff and parents that bullying does not always involve hitting and punching but may also involve name-calling, racist remarks, exclusion from games and spreading of rumours. This may include the use of mobile phones or the Internet (Cyber-bullying).
- 3.3 Encourage children being bullied to follow these guidelines:
  - Be assertive and explain to the bully how they feel
  - Consider their behaviour
  - Avoid situations which lead to bullying
  - Talk to their parents
  - Talk to a trusted person
  - Talk to a teacher
- 3.4 Encourage children to stop a bully by:
  - **Not** providing an audience
  - **Supporting** someone being bullied
  - **Not** passing on notes about another person
  - **Not** passing on rumours
  - **Not** laughing at a bully's actions
  - **Not** getting involved in talking about another person via mobile phones or the internet
- 3.5 Unacceptable behaviour will be investigated and dealt with via the school's Student Management Policy and may involve time-out, counselling, parent interviews, peer mediation, contacting the Police Youth Liaison Officer, behaviour contract or suspension.

### 4. EVALUATION

The policy will be evaluated by the staff, parents and Student Representative Council.

