St Peter's Anglican College	Anti-Bullying Policy Policy No.5a	
Effective: May 2018	**Owner**	Mr Darren McPartland Principal
Revised/updated: January 2021	**Updated by**:	Mandy McNeill Administration

Mission

Bullying is totally against the mission and purpose of St Peter's Anglican College, and is absolutely committed to providing an educational environment in which staff and students feel valued and secure. To achieve this end, the College seeks to create a school culture that:

- Allows students to flourish free from discrimination, harassment or any form of bullying
- Does not tolerate, condone or trivialise bullying behaviours
- Is aware of what constitutes bullying behaviour
- Provides support to the victims of bullying
- Deals firmly with bullies so that they modify their behaviour.

Aims

- To reinforce within the school community what bullying is, and the fact that it is unacceptable.
- Everyone within the school community to be alert to signs and evidence of bullying and to have a responsibility to report it to staff whether as observer or victim.
- To ensure that all reported incidents of bullying are followed up appropriately and that support is given to both victims and perpetrators.
- To seek parental and peer-group support and co-operation at all times.

Definition of Bullying

The national definition of bullying for Australian schools says:

Bullying is an ongoing misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that causes physical and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power over one or more persons. Bullying can happen in person or online, and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert).

Bullying of any form or for any reason can have long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders. Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.

Behaviours that do not constitute bullying include:

- mutual arguments and disagreements (where there is no power imbalance)
- not liking someone or a single act of social rejection
- one-off-acts of meanness or spite
- isolated incidents of aggression, intimidation or violence.

However, these conflicts still need to be addressed and resolved within the school's behaviour policy.

Cyber Bullying

Cyber bullying is causing hurt via modern technologies such as the Internet and other forms of social media, and through the use of smart phones and other mobile devices. Cyber bullying is a growing problem in society. Modern technologies empower the individual, even the most unlikely of individuals, with an immense capacity to cause harm. It is also an attractive means of bullying for it can, under certain conditions, be carried out with relative anonymity. Cyber bullying can be particularly damaging because of the capacity it has to humiliate, hurt and harm a person in front of a huge 'audience'.

A dangerous feature of cyber bullying is that it can be done quickly and easily. On an impulse, a person can create emotional havoc for another and do so before the voice of reason hints at the inappropriateness of the action. A further problem with cyber bullying is that the bully is often unaware of the extent of the harm they are causing because cyber bullying seldom occurs face-to-face. The feedback is muted by distance so that the bully is protected from an understanding of the awfulness of their behaviour.

Cyber bullying represents unlawful activity that may result in police laying charges. Cyber bullying has been linked to depression, self-harm and even suicide.

Examples of Cyber bullying:

- Sending hateful or threatening comments or pictures via MSN, mobile phone or the Internet and by social networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook
- Using modern technologies to engage in the social exclusion of someone and in hate group recruitment
- Posting rude, explicit or embarrassing messages or pictures about someone on the Net
- Stealing someone's identity in order to harm them in some way.

- Putting pressure on a person to send revealing or compromising pictures of themselves.
- Covertly filming, recording or taking a picture of someone and posting the images on the Net to cause hurt.
- 'Outing' and disseminating confidential information about someone.
- 'Flaming' and multi-messaging to clog up a person's electronic system and to cause them distress.
- Using aliases and pseudonyms in chat rooms and on social networking sites in order to harass and upset.
- Engaging in cyber-stalking and the invading of privacy.
- Referring to your school in a negative or disparaging way on the Net.

Sexting

Another expression of cyber bullying is sexting. Sexting is taking sexually explicit photos and making them available for others to see via a carriage service such as mobile phone or computer. Sending explicit images of anyone, including yourself, is a crime if you are under the age of 18 years. If the person in the picture is under 16 years, it can be a very serious crime resulting in charges of paedophilia.

Policy review

St Peter's Anglican College is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for its students. In order to achieve this end, the College will review the anti-bullying policies and procedures when a need is highlighted. If there is anyone within the St Peter's community who would like to recommend improvements to the School's anti-bullying policy, you are welcome to send your ideas to the College Executive.

Further support documentation can be found at the following websites :

- www.ncab.org.au (National Centre Against Bullying)

- www.bullyingnoway.com.au

- www.cybersmart.gov.au

- www.kidshelp.com.au

Document Control

Version History	Date	Change	Change by	Reviewed by
1.0	May 2018	New document	Mr David Toghill	Operational Committee
1.1	January 2021	Review	Mr Darren McPartland	Operational Committee

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