

ANTI BULLYING POLICY

Building Positive Relationships

As a Catholic school and in the spirit of St. Benedict and the Good Samaritan, we at Rosebank College seek to help young people learn the values of honesty, tolerance, understanding, self-discipline, co-operation and resourcefulness.

We want a safe, secure and welcoming school where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

This means that no-one should be hurt, feel threatened, frightened or harassed either physically or verbally. We need to realise the importance of reporting such instances so that anyone can find support from all sections of our school.

We want everyone – students, teachers and parents – to deal with bullying by taking a stand against it, whether they are the targets or witnesses. Teachers, students and parents have a responsibility to take a stand against behaviour which jeopardises positive relationships.

DEFINITIONS and EXAMPLES

What is bullying?

Bullying occurs when any member of Rosebank College is subjected to behaviour (physical, verbal or psychological) which is hurtful, threatening or frightening. Bullying includes:

- hitting or otherwise physically attacking someone
- damaging, removing or hiding another person's possessions without permission
- physically man-handling someone under the guise of 'horseplay'

Verbal

- spreading rumours
- 'putting down', name-calling, teasing and ridiculing others and their achievements
- demanding money or possessions
- making physical threats
- verbally attacking someone about their race or religion
- expressing sexual comments about another person

ANTI BULLYING POLICY (Cont.)

Social and/or Psychological

- purposely excluding someone from an activity
- glaring or making menacing gestures at another person
- totally ignoring someone, as if they don't exist
- causing someone to feel afraid through intimidation

NB: These forms of bullying may take place personally or electronically eg. via SMS or the Internet.

SOME COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

“I was just mucking around, can't he take a joke?”

This is the most common response from the bully. In fact, bullying is not a 'joke'. It is not funny to ridicule or hurt someone, to make them feel uncomfortable, or to push them around.

“I don't want to cause trouble.”

This misconception comes from the victim, who thinks that he is the cause of the problem. All students have a right to feel safe at school. You are only standing up for yourself when you report being bullied.

“It is just a natural part of growing up.”

This misconception often comes from adults, but the truth is that there is absolutely nothing 'natural' about being victimised. Students have a 'right' to feel safe at school and during their travel to and from school.

“No one can do anything about it.”

Most cases of bullying are sorted out very simply, especially if the bullying is reported sooner rather than later. The College is committed to solving these sorts of problems, but students must communicate with the College staff if we are to have any chance of helping.

“Dobbing is a bad thing to do.”

Bullying is the bad thing, telling the truth is a good thing. By telling the truth you are standing up for your rights as a human being. It takes character and intelligence to stand up for your rights which is something that bullies are afraid of. Bullies try to intimidate people into maintaining a 'code of silence' because they can then continue to hurt other people for as long as they wish. Bullying continues when people fail to report what is happening.

POSITIVE WAYS TO DEAL WITH BULLYING:

- Be assertive, look the person in the eye and use your voice to tell the person they are to stop.
- If the bullying recurs, report it promptly to prevent the problem getting worse. You can speak to a parent, teacher, Year Coordinator, Assistant Principal or Principal. Allow these people to take action against bullying.
- Consider seeking support from a Peer Support Leader, College Leader, trusted adult or the school counsellor.
- Check your own behaviour to see that you are not contributing to the situation.
- Deal with conflicts openly, calmly and respectfully.
- Accept responsibility for your words and actions.
- Examine your own behaviour and stop any bullying you have been doing.
- Demand that bullies stop their behaviour.
- Respond to victims of bullying in a supportive and caring way.

IF YOU BULLY SOMEONE ELSE:

- You will be required to stop it immediately.
- Your bullying will result in disciplinary procedures.
- Your parents will be informed.
- You may be required to seek help to change your behaviour.
- Your Year Coordinator will monitor your behaviour.



**THE COLLEGE WILL DEAL VERY SERIOUSLY WITH THOSE WHO RETALIATE
AGAINST A PERSON FOR REPORTING BULLYING.**

CYBERBULLYING POLICY

Our aim is to protect the health and safety both of the student(s) and of the whole school community.

Rosebank College prohibits the inappropriate and threatening use of e-mail, internet and mobile phone facilities both in the school, at any school function and away from school where the behaviour seriously impacts on other students or staff at the school.

WHAT IS CYBERBULLYING?

Cyberbullying can include, but is not limited to, the items listed below.

- **Email** – Sending harassing, threatening and/ or menacing messages to targets either directly, anonymously or using another person's address or alias.
- **Instant Messaging (IM)** (Systems include MSN Messenger ,Yahoo & Bebo) – Harassing and heated arguments (referred to as 'flaming') can occur and include obscene language in private chat rooms.
- **Chat Rooms/Bash boards** (Real time communication facilities) – Can allow students to anonymously write anything (true or untrue) creating and adding cruel entries in a world wide forum.
- **Short Text Messages (SMS)** – Masquerading as another by using their mobile phone or computer to send harassing or threatening messages.
- **Websites/Social Networking sites** – Mocking, teasing and harassing; voting online for the 'ugliest' or 'fattest' etc and posting visuals that can be altered (this can include sexually explicit material)

Cyberbullying can be a criminal offence under the following acts:

- Summary Offences Act Criminal offences include; 'Production, dissemination or possession of child pornography' or 'Publishing child pornography and indecent articles'(Section 91H of the *Crimes Act 1900*)
- Federal *Cybercrime Act 2001* including unauthorized access to, or modification of, restricted data.
- Specific sections of the Crimes Act relating to assault.
- Defamation under the *NSW Defamation Amendment Act 2002* (Individual civil action legislation)

Procedures

With the aim of preventing instances of cyberbullying, all students are required to read and sign the College's Cybersafety use agreement at the beginning of each year.

Cyberbullying that is alleged to have occurred inside or outside of the school, where it disrupts school life or significantly breaks down relationships between members of the school community, should be taken seriously and responded to as thoroughly as possible.

If you are being cyberbullied you should refer it to an adult as soon as possible. In the first instance your Roll Call Teacher or Year Coordinator

Responses to Cyberbullying

If an incidence of cyberbullying occurs, investigation and possible disciplinary action will be undertaken.

A range of actions are available, depending on individual circumstances. These include:

- no disciplinary action required
- suspension
- student(s) put on a contract
- transfer
- student(s) required to undergo counselling
- expulsion
- penalty work and/detention

Cyberbullying containing	Actions may include
Bullying	Parental notification Suspension Documentation
Overt sexual content	Police notification DoCS notification Parental notification Suspension
Threatening life or Criminal activity or Sexual assault	Police notification DoCS notification Parental notification Suspension/ Transfer/Expulsion Counselling