



IN CRUCE SALUS

HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL

POLICY DEALING WITH BULLYING

This policy is informed by:

- THE CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY (Catholic Institute of Education)
- CODE OF CONDUCT OF HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: GOVERNING BODY FOUNDATION FOR A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THIS POLICY

Policy Content:

- 1. Definition*
- 2. Forms of bullying*
- 3. The Schools stand on bullying*
- 4. Actions to underpin the schools stance on bullying*

1 DEFINITION

Bullying is aggressive behaviour arising from a deliberate intent to cause physical or psychological distress to others.

2 FORMS OF BULLYING

Bullying includes, but is not necessarily limited to actions or activities such as:

- 2.1 Social banter
- 2.2 Hurtful teasing
- 2.3 Aggressive body language
- 2.4 Pushing and shoving
- 2.5 Malicious gossip
- 2.6 Racist comments
- 2.7 Exclusion
- 2.8 Extortion
- 2.9 Telephone, cellphone and internet abuse
- 2.10 Damage to the personal or allocated property of an individual (e.g. his/her school desk or locker)
- 2.11 Physical violence.

3 THE SCHOOL'S STAND ON BULLYING

- 3.1 Holy Cross High School has a reputation for being a friendly and spirited school: within this context it is accepted that there will a certain amount of physical interaction some normal banter which will be seen as 'fun' by the perpetrators. Great care needs to be exercised to

ensure that this play does not overstep the bounds of acceptability and degenerate into bullying.

- 3.2 Against this framework, the school is committed to taking all reasonable steps necessary for minimising all forms of harassment.
- 3.3 It needs all in the school community to work together to ensure that everyone feels safe and 'at home' in the school.
- 3.4 Teachers and senior pupils have to work actively at being role-models.
- 3.5 The school regards bullying as a Category 1 offence in terms of its Codes of Conduct, and will respond to all proven incidents of bullying on the basis of 'zero tolerance'.

4 ACTIONS TO UNDERPIN THE SCHOOL'S STAND ON BULLYING

- 4.1 The school has systems of pastoral care and reporting which will react immediately when bullying is reported.
- 4.2 Not only will the school support victims of bullying, but will also provide education and remedial support for the bully, in order to prevent recurrences of incidents of bullying.
- 4.3 Such support will be additional to, and not instead of, punitive action where such action is warranted.
- 4.4 As part of the school's induction programmes for newly admitted pupils there will be a module on the detection, prevention of and responses to bullying in all its forms.
- 4.5 The school will constantly review its values and responses in this regard, and also its attitude to what constitutes bullying.