

## **ANTI BULLYING AND HARASSMENT POLICY**

**What is bullying?** “Bullying” or “harassment” is intimidation of a physical, verbal or psychological nature by a person or group of persons and occurs over a number of days, weeks, or on a frequent basis.

It can include:

- any form of physical violence
- making suggestive comments, or other forms of sexual harassment
- interfering with another’s property
- using offensive names, teasing or spreading rumours
- writing offensive notes or graffiti about others
- making degrading comments about another’s culture, religious or social background
- hurtfully excluding others from a group
- ridiculing another’s appearance or accent
- forcing others to act against their will
- sending offensive messages by S MS, social networking sites, and posting offensive photos.

### **How do we prevent bullying?**

As a school community we will not allow cases of bullying to go unreported but will speak up. We need to realise the importance of reporting bullying so that we can challenge the silence associated with it. The College also has a list of classroom rules and expectations regarding bullying. These are displayed in every classroom and enforced by College staff.

### **This requires students:**

- to refuse to be involved in any bullying situation
- if appropriate, to take preventative action
- to have the courage to report the incident to a teacher or the College Counsellor
- to report the incident via [blab@spcsutherland.catholic.edu.au](mailto:blab@spcsutherland.catholic.edu.au)

### **This requires staff:**

- to be role models
- to be observant, to intervene and take the appropriate action

### **The College recommends that parents:**

- encourage your children to discuss bullying as much as possible. Read this policy thoroughly with your children
- watch for signs of distress, eg unwillingness to attend school, frequent apparent illness
- advise your child to follow the procedures above
- do not encourage your child to retaliate
- contact the school if your child’s efforts to deal with bullying do not appear to be working. Let your child know this is the appropriate action

### **If you report bullying:**

- the issue will be dealt with confidentially
- you will be told what action will be taken

**If you are bullying:**

- your Pastoral Co-ordinator will be involved
- your parents will be advised
- appropriate action will be taken
- in serious cases your enrolment may be reviewed

**ALL REPORTED CASES OF BULLYING WILL BE TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY**

Bullying is condoned as long as the silence surrounding it is accepted. Speaking out is the greatest weapon we have against it. We trust that the whole school community can share the responsibility to combat bullying whenever and wherever it occurs.

**Contact Information for St. Patrick's College Sutherland**

**Pastoral Coordinator – 9542 9000**

**NSW Police Schools Liaison Officer (Sutherland Local Area Command) – 9542 0899**

**College Counsellor – 9542 9000**

**Community Services Helpline – 133 627**

**NSW Health – 9113 2944**