ST. AMBROSE’S SCHOOL
BULLYING POLICY

At St. Ambrose School our Bullying Policy comes under the umbrella of our Assertive Discipline Policy. This is a Whole School Policy that is used by all staff across the school. Part of our Assertive Discipline Policy states that each classroom has a simple set of rules which are mapped out at the start of the year by teachers and children. One of these rules includes No Bullying or Teasing is allowed. All teachers will at this time discuss with children the various types of Bullying so there is a clear understanding by all.

These include:-
• Physical - eg. hitting, pushing, kicking, punching etc.
• Verbal - eg. humiliating, put-downs, name calling.
• Social - eg. rumours, ignoring, excluding.
• Psychological - eg. staring, dirty looks, notes, spreading rumours.

We also believe that Bullying is a repeated form of harassment and not a one off incident. Bullying involves an imbalance of power between one child and another or one child and a group of children.

Our approach to Bullying is two-fold in that we have many preventative measures in place which promote a culture of respect and inclusiveness for all our children, parents and staff. These include:-

• Our RE program which is modelled on the teachings of Jesus and allows for much discussion around forgiveness, respect and relationships in general.
• Staff on yard duty being pro active in acting on possible problems eg. Children alone or looking sad, tense situations between children etc.
• Staff taking responsibility for the welfare of all children – getting to know as many children and their families.
• Good Cooperation Program – staff look out for children who are identified with social or emotional problems.
• Social Skills Programs throughout the school which are integrated into the curriculum – these programs include
  Resilient Kids, Stop Think Do.
• Yr. 6 Transition Program
• Yr. 5 Peer Support Program
• Yrs P/1’s & Yr 5/6 Buddies Program.
• Seasons Grief and Loss Program
• Referral of children with friendship issues or other social or emotional problems to see Welfare Coordinator for assessment and referral if necessary.
• Ongoing support in the way of regular sessions with the Welfare Coordinator.


Once a child has been identified as having been bullied the following steps are taken.

1. The child is interviewed by either teacher, principal or Welfare Coordinator, and his/her version of the events are heard.

2. The other child/children involved are also interviewed. If it is then felt that the incident did involve a form of Bullying then the No Blame method which is explained below will be followed by either the Principal, Teacher or Welfare Coordinator.

4. The parents of the children responsible for the bullying will be informed and discussion held. Children will be asked to promise to cease the behaviour and in line with our general discipline policy any appropriate consequences will be negotiated.

5. The child will then regularly be checked on by the staff member who conducted the interview and the situation monitored.

6. If the bullying does not cease parents of those responsible will again be contacted and further consequences will be negotiated.

7. Consequences may be those listed in the schools general discipline policy or may take the form of loss of privileges at home etc.

8. Parents will be expected to agree to allow their children to be counselled about their behaviour by either school staff or where appropriate outside experts.

9. Ultimately if children continue to engage in Bullying behaviour it may be necessary to negotiate for their enrolment to be transferred to another school.