Bullying Policy

Rosehill College

Rationale
Bullying is unacceptable harassment. It is deliberate, hurtful behaviour. It has the potential to interfere with other's ability to thrive at school. It represents an infringement of an individual's rights and group rights. It interferes with students' educational and social development, or with a staff member's sense of security and well-being. It can be difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

Bullying is a direct violation of the College's commitment to a culture of positive relationships within its whole community.

Definition
Activities which constitute bullying include physical assaults, taking another's property, name calling, racist or sexist remarks, threatening and rumour-mongering. Rosehill College policy also designates cyber-bullying and text bullying, which include the following activities:

- Sending anonymous texts or picture messages to a mobile phone
- Posting nasty or threatening comments on an individual's social networking profile
- Hacking existing website accounts or creating fake profiles to intimidate or embarrass individuals
- Circulating photos or videos of individuals to embarrass or cause offence
- Spreading rumours or trying to isolate individuals using this new technology

Guidelines

1. The College will raise and maintain awareness of what constitutes bullying and appropriate responses by using the following to disseminate information:

   - Staff Manuals
   - Assemblies
   - Orientation booklet
   - Peer support
   - Staff meetings (include support staff)
   - Tutor groups
   - Newsletters
   - Staff training
   - Student Advisers
   - Code of Expectations

2. Students, parents and staff will be educated on the necessity of telling the appropriate people.

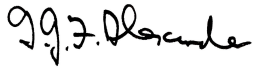
3. A variety of responses to bullying will be used. These may include holistic approaches such as restorative justice, as well as sanctions such as standdowns or suspensions. Wherever possible, holistic approaches will be pursued with special attention to the needs of victims.

4 Parents/Caregivers of victims and offenders are to be informed.

5. Staff must respond immediately to all incidents of bullying.

6 Part of ensuring a safe environment will be adequate duty coverage before and after school and during interval and lunchtime.

Signed for the Board of Trustees



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