ANTI BULLYING

RATIONALE
Our school will provide a positive culture where bullying is not accepted, and in so doing, everyone will have the right to respect from others, the right to learn or to teach, and the right to feel safe and secure in the school environment.

Definition: A person is bullied when they are exposed regularly and over time to negative actions on the part of one or more persons. Bullies are people who deliberately set out to intimidate, exclude, threaten and or hurt others repeatedly. They can operate alone or as a group. Cyberbullying is bullying that is carried out through an internet service, such as email, chat room, discussion group or instant messaging. It can also include bullying through mobile phone technologies such as short messaging service (SMS). Examples of cyber bullying include teasing, masquerading, spreading rumours online, ending unwanted messages, or defamation.

AIMS
- To reinforce within the school community that no form of bullying is acceptable.
- To define and develop an understanding of what bullying is and is not.
- To encourage students to report bullying behaviours
- To ensure that all reported incidents of bullying are followed up and that support is given to both victim and perpetrator.
- To reduce, with the aim of eliminating, the number of bullying incidents occurring.
- To monitor and gather data on behaviours
- To develop students’ ability to use technologies responsibly and safely.

IMPLEMENTATION
Parents, teachers and community will be made aware of the school’s position on bullying through our Right to Learn Policy. The school will address the issue of bullying in the following areas:-

Primary Prevention:
- Conduct school bullying survey during terms one and three.
- Conduct Cybersmart lessons that develop students’ ability to act and respond responsibly when using technologies.
- Implement a variety of programs that promotes resilience, life skills and protective factors in our students. These could include ‘You Can Do It’, Healthy Relationships, MPower and Friendly Schools & Families.
- At the beginning of each semester classroom teachers will clarify the anti-bullying and the Right to Learn policies with their students.
- Staff and students will promote the philosophy of ‘No Put Downs’.

Early Intervention:
- Encourage students to report bullying incidents upon themselves or witnessed upon another child.
- Classroom teachers will reinforce to students that reporting bullying incidents are not dobbing.
- Encourage parents to contact the school if they become aware of a bullying problem.

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Intervention:
- Once identified, all incidents will be fully investigated and documented.
- Both bully and victim will be offered counselling and support if deemed necessary.
- If bullying is ongoing, parents will be contacted and consequences implemented consistent with our school’s Right to Learn policy.
- Those identified through the Bullying Survey will be counselled as deemed appropriate by the principal.

Post Violation:
- Consequences may involve exclusion from class, exclusion from yard, school suspension, withdrawal of privileges, on-going counselling from appropriate agency for both victim and bully.

EVALUATION
- This policy will be reviewed as part of Student Engagement & Wellbeing 1 year review cycle.

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