In the end, we will not remember the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.  
Martin Luther King

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**PARENTS - You Can Help!**

By the time children tell their parents they are being bullied, they may have tried everything they can to deal with it on their own. Telling parents is often a very hard step to take.

As a first step it is usually best to:

- Encourage your child to talk it through as far as they want to and for you to get the basic facts.
- Try to keep an open mind, you are only hearing one part of the story. There is another!
- Ask questions gently.
- Help your child to reflect on what has been done so far.
- Help your child work out what might be done.

It is important to find out:

- What happened?
- Who was involved?
- Where?
- When?
- Did anyone else see it, and, if so, who?

It is a good idea to write down what you find out.

Important next steps to follow:

- **NEVER** approach other students or their parents about the issue. This is **NOT** acceptable.
- Do not let your emotions and general feelings overpower your reactions.
- When you have a clear picture of what is going on and how you and your child would like to approach it, contact the school.
- Make an appointment to see the Principal or Class Teacher.

**Communication of Incidents to Parents**

- Parents of both the bully and the victim will be contacted via the school either through written communication or by a phone call.

**PARENTS AND THE SCHOOL ARE PARTNERS IN THIS PROCESS.**

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### BEHAVIOUR PLAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BEHAVIOUR</th>
<th>1ST TIME</th>
<th>2ND TIME</th>
<th>3RD TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TEASE (VERBAL)</strong></td>
<td>Warning Incident recorded and principal notified</td>
<td>Incident recorded and principal notified. Parents notified and suitable punishment.</td>
<td>Incident recorded and referred to the Principal. Call to parents. Exclusion and home consequences decided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SWEARING</strong></td>
<td>Warning Incident recorded and principal notified</td>
<td>Incident recorded and principal notified. Parents notified and suitable punishment.</td>
<td>Incident recorded and referred to the Principal. Call to parents. Exclusion and home consequences decided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXCLUSION/ LEAVING OUT/ ISOLATION</strong></td>
<td>Warning Incident recorded and principal notified</td>
<td>Incident recorded and principal notified. Parents notified and suitable punishment.</td>
<td>Incident recorded and referred to the Principal. Call to parents. Exclusion and home consequences decided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DELIBERATE AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR</strong></td>
<td>Warning Incident recorded and principal notified</td>
<td>Incident recorded and principal notified. Parents notified and suitable punishment.</td>
<td>Incident recorded and referred to the Principal. Call to parents. Exclusion and home consequences decided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SEVERE BEHAVIOURS FIGHTING, INSOLENT BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS STAFF/ STUDENTS</strong></td>
<td>Referred to Principal, Call made to parents - parent meeting. Possible after school detention/ suspension.</td>
<td>Referred to Principal, Call made to parents –parent meeting. Exclusion and suitable punishment.</td>
<td>Action Plan in place. Exclusion from key events. Individual Behaviour Book maintained by Principal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FURTHER INCIDENTS</strong></td>
<td>Counselling arranged</td>
<td>Counselling arranged</td>
<td>Counselling arranged</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**WHAT IS BULLYING?**

‘Bullying is a form of aggressive behaviour which is usually hurtful and deliberate: it is persistent, sometimes continuing for weeks, months or even years and it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves’ (Sharp & Smith 1994).

Bullying contains six key elements:
1. An intention to be hurtful.
2. This intention is carried out.
3. The behaviour hurts the target.
4. The bully overwhelms the target.
5. Behaviour repeated again and again.
6. Bully derives a sense of satisfaction from hurting the target.

*Bullying isn’t random acts of violence, rejection or general conflict.*

**FORMS OF BULLYING**

To be a form of bullying the action must be consistent and on-going.

- Calling someone hurtful names.
- Deliberately pushing, hitting, punching.
- Teasing/Threatening others.
- Spreading rumours about someone.
- Deliberately ignoring, excluding/leaving out/isolating children from the group.
- Sending hurtful notes/SMS text/emails.
- Taking or damaging someone’s property.
- Put downs—being mean, nasty.
- Bossing others around.
- Making fun of others.

**WHAT CAN STUDENTS DO IF THEY ARE BULLIED?**

At Sacred Heart Catholic School, Goomalling, we are united in the belief that all members of the school community have the right to a supportive and safe school environment.

Students should try the following when placed in a situation where they feel intimidated and bullied:

- Be assertive and non aggressive. ‘...I don’t like you saying that (bully’s name)’
- State clearly the behaviour that is upsetting you.
- Use strong posture and make eye contact.
- If bully does not stop, talk to a teacher.
- Write down what happened and give it to your teacher.

**Students need to know if someone threatens them or hurts them, it is not acceptable, and they need to seek support. Asking for help is their right and is different from dobbing.**

**WHAT CAN STUDENTS DO IF THEY ARE A WITNESS TO BULLYING?**

Students will be encouraged to be active in their support for targets of bullying. Bystanders still have a role to play in incidents of bullying. Simply standing around and watching a bully intimidate and hurt another child is not acceptable at Sacred Heart.

Bystanders are expected to do the following:

- Tell the bully to stop. ‘...don’t do that to him/her.’ ‘...leave them alone.’
- Tell a teacher.
- Be a friend. ‘...come and play with us...’ ‘...you are our friend come with us...’

**STRATEGIES FOLLOWED BY STAFF AT SACRED HEART**

The following ACTION PLAN will have consequences that are PREDICTABLE, INEVITABLE, IMMEDIATE AND ESCALATING.

- "JUST KIDDING" or "JUST JOKING" is never an acceptable excuse.
- Staff reserve the right to use their professional judgment in all circumstances.
- The Principal has the right to override any process in means they deem necessary.

Sacred Heart staff will assist all students involved in incidents of bullying, endeavouring to resolve inappropriate behaviours.