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# Preventing and Responding to Student Bullying and Harassment in Schools Policy

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**Brisbane Catholic Education schools promote a positive culture that enables all members of the school community, feel safe and supported and free from the fear of bullying, harassment, intimidation and victimisation and feel safe and supported.**

## **RATIONALE**

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Brisbane provide all students with opportunities to develop positive behaviours and self-discipline in a safe, supportive environment where mutually respectful relationships are the defining features of a dynamic, Christ-centred community.

The prevention and management of bullying is incorporated within the *Brisbane Catholic Education Student Behaviour Support Policy - Rationale and Guidelines, Procedures and Regulations*. Each school's Student Behaviour Support Plan should address all forms of bullying in line with these documents.

*Bullying is defined as repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons (National Safe Schools' Framework, 2011).*

## **VISION**

Each Catholic community, organisation and individual collaboratively engaged in the educational ministry of the Church in the Archdiocese of Brisbane is called to:

### **Teach**

We promote faith in Jesus Christ, teaching and learning about Jesus, the gospel and the faith of the Catholic Christian community. Learning is lifelong, life-giving and engages the whole person.

### **Challenge**

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we challenge those we educate to live in communion with God, others and the whole of creation in prayerful, sacramental, just, peaceful, inclusive and reconciling communities.

### **Transform**

We educate for a transformed world in communion, by nurturing the gifts and potential of each person, enacting shared leadership, and exercising a preferential option for the poor and marginalised.

## **PURPOSE**

This policy document is aligned with the Vision Statement for Catholic Education above and its purpose is to reaffirm and strengthen Catholic school communities to:

- commit to positive, proactive practices in support of student behaviour and wellbeing;
- ensure Student Behaviour Support planning promotes preventative approaches to bullying and responsive approaches to restoring relationships;
- foster respectful interpersonal relationships among and between all community members;
- promote positive behaviour support as an integral part of all learning and teaching experiences.

## **EXPECTATIONS**

The *National Safe Schools' Framework* (2011) states a safe and supportive school is one in which “..... diversity is valued and all members of the school community feel respected and included and can be confident that they will receive support in the face of any threats to their safety and wellbeing”.

In line with the National Safe Schools Framework it is expected that:-

Brisbane Catholic Education office and school personnel will be familiar with:

- [BCE Student Behaviour Support Policy](#)- Rationale and Guidelines, Procedures and Regulations;
- BCE Preventing and Responding to Student Bullying and Harassment in Schools Guidelines and Procedures;
- [BCE Student Protection Processes](#).
- Schools will provide clear expectations in relation to bullying and harassment as part of their whole school Student Behaviour Support Plan.
- Staff, students and parents will be familiar with the school Student Behaviour Support Plan that is published, promoted and available to all members of the school community.
- Schools, with the support of parents, the wider community, and young people themselves, will take proactive and preventative action to prevent bullying happening in the first instance.
- Schools, in line with the whole school *Student Behaviour Support Plan* and the *BCE Student Protection Processes*, will develop planned preventative approaches, clear protocols, and age and context appropriate responses to bullying behaviour that is visible in documentation and practice.
- Schools will report incidents of bullying in all environments, including cyberspace/online, and monitor this through consistent record-keeping of behaviour incident data in the Student Behaviour Support System (SBSS). This behaviour incident data should be tracked and analysed to detect patterns of behaviour that identify bullying.

### **Resources to Support policy**

The *Brisbane Catholic Education Preventing and Responding to Student Bullying in Schools Guidelines and Procedures* has been developed to provide background, guidelines and resources to this policy and to clearly outline expectations in relation to its implementation.