

BULLYING

Any action, word or behavior which harasses, intimidates or causes physical, emotional or psychological harm to another student or students is strictly prohibited. This prohibited conduct also extends to the use of technology ("Cyber bullying") as a tool to harass or cause harm.

Bullying is prohibited during any school-sponsored education program or activity; while in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus, or at school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities; or through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment. However, this policy is not limited to conduct that occurs on the premises of the Diocese school.

"Bullying" means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically ("cyber bullying"), directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- (1) placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;
- (2) causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
- (3) substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance; or
- (4) substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Bullying may take various forms, including without limitation one or more of the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. Examples of "cyber bullying" include but are not limited to the use of e-mail, web sites, text messaging, electronic photos or videos & social media (i.e. Face Book, Twitter, My Space etc...) to harass or intimidate. These lists are meant to be illustrative and non-exhaustive.

Students who violate this policy will be subject to the discipline policy of the student's school.

Procedure:

This policy is to be communicated by each Diocesan school principal to the school's students and their parent/guardian annually. This policy will be reviewed/updated every 2 years and filed with the State Board of Education after being updated.

Any behavior of a student which, in the School's discretion, puts that student at risk for aggressive behavior, including bullying, shall be reported by the Diocesan school principal to the parent/guardian of the student committing the behavior, and the parent/guardian may be required to investigate early intervention based upon available community-based resources.

Effective: 1 August, 2010