

POLICY: Preventing and Responding to Student Bullying and Harassment

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to describe Brisbane Catholic Education's (BCE) approach to positive, proactive practices in support of student behaviour and wellbeing and to the prevention, intervention, and response to student bullying and harassment.

This policy must be read in conjunction with: Student Behaviour Support policy and procedures; Student Diversity and Inclusion policy; Student, Parent, Guardian Complaints Management policy and procedure; Student Protection policy; Student Wellbeing policy; Preventing and Responding to Student Bullying and Harassment procedure; Student Protection Processes; and Catholic Education Archdiocese of Brisbane Code of Conduct.

2. RATIONALE

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Brisbane provide all students with opportunities to develop positive behaviours in a safe, supportive environment where mutually respectful relationships and respecting the rights of the child are defining features of a dynamic, Christ-centred community. The prevention, intervention, and response to bullying and harassment are incorporated within this policy and supporting procedure.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

Schools will provide clear expectations in relation to bullying and harassment as part of their school Student Behaviour Support (SBS) Plan. Schools will ensure that employees, students, parents, and guardians are familiar with the school's SBS Plan, which must be published on the school's website.

Schools, with the support of parents, the wider community, and young people, will take proactive and preventative action to prevent bullying and harassment happening in the first instance. Each school's SBS Plan must address all forms of bullying and harassment in line with this policy and supporting procedure.

Schools, in line with the school SBS Plan and BCE's Student Protection Processes, will develop planned preventative approaches, clear processes, and age and context appropriate responses and interventions to bullying and harassment behaviours, that are documented and visible through practice.

4. PRINCIPLES

To implement this policy, BCE schools:

- 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 based on respect for the rights of the child
- promote positive behaviour support as an integral part of all learning and teaching experiences

- ensure employees undertake relevant professional learning to support a positive school culture
- report and record incidents in all environments, including online, in the bullying register in the Engage Student Support System
- track and analyse behaviour incident data to detect patterns of bullying and harassment
- manage complaints about school processes for managing bullying and harassment under the Student, Parent, Guardian Complaints Management policy and procedure.

5. REFERENCES

- Catholic Education Archdiocese of Brisbane Code of Conduct
- Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy
- Preventing and Responding to Student Bullying and Harassment procedure
- Student Behaviour Support policy
- Student Behaviour Support procedure
- Student Diversity and Inclusion policy
- Student, Parent, Guardian Complaints Management policy and procedure
- Student Protection policy
- Student Protection Processes
- Student Wellbeing policy.