

Trinity Grammar School

POLICY ON BULLYING

Trinity Grammar School is aware that bullying includes long-standing violence, physical or psychological, conducted by an individual or group and directed against an individual unable to defend himself in the actual situation; when he is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more than one person; and an abuse of power in any relationship. There are many types of bullying: physical, verbal, gesture, extortion and exclusion.

Trinity Grammar School's POSITION STATEMENT, which incorporates its Mission Statement, is that bullying of any kind is unacceptable within the School community. Students who continue to behave in such an antisocial manner will forfeit their membership of the School community.

The Trinity community aims to create an environment of understanding and co-operation in which the victim of bullying will feel empowered to seek help and, by collaboration with staff and others, confront the influence of the bully.

More importantly, the attitude and active response of the School community will make the bully realise that his behaviour is antisocial and personally damaging. He will recognise the need to be guided towards more appropriate interpersonal skills.

The School Pastoral Care structure is sensitive to this issue and has an ongoing brief to monitor the situation within the School.

It is important for the School community to be aware that a student who is bullied very rarely tells an adult (including parents). This may be because of a feeling of decreased self worth created during the bullying incident, the fear that reporting the incident will result in further harassment or that the nature of the victim is often such that he would not be assertive enough to report the incident.

Parents who observe a radical change in their son's behaviour should talk to their son and his Housemaster because such changes may be symptomatic of bullying. These changes may include lack of confidence, withdrawal from social activities, temper flare-ups, forgetfulness, distractability, loss of appetite, sleeplessness, wanting to change the route to school, and avoidance of specific lessons.

The issue of bullying is discussed in our pastoral care programmes. If a student feels he is being bullied he is encouraged to talk to: his parents; a teacher; his Housemaster; the Chaplain; the School Counsellor; School Sister; Senior Master; or Head Master.

Head Master

Thursday, August 1, 1996