



HOPEPOINT
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Anti Bullying Policy

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Principal



Anti Bullying Policy & Procedures

1. Introduction

HopePoint Christian School has a zero tolerance for bullying in any form, whether that be physical, verbal, emotional, psychological, or otherwise.

Bullying is defined as repeated aggressive, unkind, or mean behaviours directed toward a targeted individual, or individuals, that involves a real or perceived power imbalance.

Bullying behaviours can include, but are not limited to:

- deliberately excluding peers from group activities
- belittling or diminishing someone's worth
- teasing someone, mocking, name calling, or making rude gestures
- spreading rumours or lies about another student, or family member of student
- hurting someone physically by pushing, hitting, or ganging up on them
- threatening to hurt someone
- harassing someone because of their race, gender, size, or disability
- taking something forcibly from someone else
- being dominant over other students, as way to intimidate or coerce

Bullying does not include:

- being rude by way of saying or doing something that was taken in a hurtful or mean way, but was not intended to be.
- saying something mean to a friend who accidentally upset you
- doing or saying something purposefully hurtful, as a one-off instance while hurt
- having an argument or disagreement with a friend and saying mean things to each other
- respectful feedback
- boundary setting with a friend or classmate
- not being trusted by a friend because you shared something they told you in confidence

Any behaviour that has not fallen under the definition of bullying, but is still in need of correction, please refer to the HopePoint Christian School Discipline Policy.

2. Related Policies

- HopePoint Christian School Student Discipline Policy
- HopePoint Christian School Suspension and Expulsion Policy
- HopePoint Christian School Complaints and Grievances Policy & Procedures
- HopePoint Christian School Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Statement

3. Course of Action

3.1 Investigation

Any alleged instances of bullying, or complaints of bullying must always be brought straight to the Principal, Mr Joe Britton.

Upon receipt of the bullying claim, the Principal will first speak with the alleged victim of the bullying, and then separately to the alleged perpetrator. Once a statement has been received from both students, the Principal will decide whether or not the claim is a bullying or disciplinary issue, and whether the parents/guardians of the students need be involved in a resolution.

3.2 Resolution and plan forward

If the Principal deems the alleged bullying as a one off instance, the matter will be handled as a disciplinary issue, in accordance with the HopePoint Christian School Discipline Policy.

If the issue is that of a student being bullied, the Principal will contact both parties' parents/guardians and discuss the matter with them; strategizing and implementing a plan forward that prevents the bullying from continuing further.

The plan may include:

- alerting staff to keep an eye out, in the classroom or schoolyard;
- separating students in class;
- a behaviour plan; and
- referring back to the **HopePoint Christian School Discipline Policy**

The Anti Bullying plan will be shared with the parents/guardians of the both students, and any relevant staff.

Both parties will then meet with the Principal again, a week later, to discuss how the plan is working, sharing any further grievances or input with the Principal.

The Principal will then again decide the best course of action moving forward.

4. Whole School Responsibility

HopePoint Christian School believes in promoting and encouraging a whole school approach to Anti Bullying. Deeply rooted in a belief that God created everyone uniquely precious, HopePoint Christian School believes that reinforcing in each child their innate worth, and creating an environment in which everyone is included and respected, sets the foundation for all other learning.

As a School community, this is seen in:

- Our School Values; Kindness, Courage, Respect and Excellence;
- Continued reinforcement during Devotional time in the mornings, around inclusion, respect and diversity;
- PDH lessons about the importance of including others, and that the differences in in child are what make them special;
- Peer Support Programs;
- Buddy Program - Where all new Kindergarten students are partnered with an older student, from grades 4, 5, or 6.

The Buddy Program closes the divide in age groups, and helps empower both the older students as leaders and mentors, seeing value in what they have to share with their buddies; but also the Kindergarten students, helping ease their transition into school, and allowing them to feel a sense of belonging from early in their first year. This sense of belonging and community then continues throughout their years of schooling, and encourages all future students.