

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedures (Primary Version in Simpler Language)

Introduction

At our school it is important for everyone to feel safe. It is also important for each of us to learn the skills for being a self directed individual who can respect everyone.

There will be times at our school when students do not get along with each other. Sometimes this can turn into bullying. We need to have rules and guidelines to help students stop the negative behaviors and use positive skills for learning and playing together. Our *Discipline with Purpose* program will help us with this.

Everyone at our school, including students, teachers and parents, are expected to follow these rules and guidelines as members of our Catholic community.

Policy

At Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School, we believe that everyone is created by God and loved by God. This gives each of us a special value that we call dignity. As followers of Jesus, we are called to value other people's dignity and to treat them with respect just as Jesus did. If we do this, then everyone will feel safe at our school.

Bullying of any kind goes against our call to be like Jesus and so it is never acceptable at any time.

At our school, we learn how to prevent bullying and how to use good social skills to get along with other people.

At our school, we have ways to tell adults about bullying behavior that we see.

At our school, reports about bullying are treated seriously. All reports will be addressed quickly and in a way that protects people's privacy. Consequences will be based on our classroom and school discipline cycles.

Prevention and Education

If we are going to prevent bullying at our school, we need to know what is bullying and what is not bullying. Some things that happen are just the normal ups and downs of being together. Other behaviors are mean or rude. Sometimes the meanness turns into bullying.

Bullying – when a student (or group of students) tries to have power over another student. Bullying can be something that happens often, or something that happens just once. When bullying happens, students may take on the roles of bully, bully-follower, target, or bystander.

Physical Bullying – hurting another person’s body by behaviors such as hitting, punching, pushing, spitting, or holding. It may also be physical bullying to harm another person’s belongings by stealing or breaking them.

Verbal Bullying – using words to put down another student with behaviors like name-calling, teasing, taunting, or threatening. It may also be verbal bullying to use mean gestures toward another student like using your hands, making faces, staring, and eye-rolling.

Relational Bullying – when a student tries to control who can be friends with each other using behaviors like leaving people out, whispering about them, or gossiping. Relational bullying may also writing or drawing mean things about another person.

Cyber Bullying – using phones and computers to bully another student by behaviors like sending mean messages to them or writing messages about them that are not true.

We will have special lessons during the year that help us to learn more about how we can prevent bullying at our school.

Reporting

Everyone at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School can help to keep our school safe by telling adults about any meanness and bullying that you see. Adults at school are not always there to see and hear everything that happens between students. When teachers are told about problems, they can help students to solve them.

Students – Report bullying concerns to your teacher or other school staff (like the nurse or counselor). You can tell them about it, write them a note, or use the “I’m Concerned” Report Form. You can give the note or form to your teacher, or put it in the special box by the Health Office.

Parents – Report bullying concerns to teachers or school staff by telling them, writing a note or use the “I’m Concerned” Report Form. Parents can send the note or form to the teacher or put it in the special box by the Health Office.

Teachers and Staff – Teacher will write all reports that they see or hear on an “I’m Concerned” Report Form. They will share all reports with the Principal or Assistant Principal.

School Administration – The Principal or Assistant Principal can also make a report about bullying concerns. They will write their report on an “I’m Concerned” Report Form, and may share their concern with the classroom teacher.

The Principal or Assistant Principal will keep a record of all the reports made during the school year.

Intervention

When you make a report, the teacher or staff member will investigate your concern so that they can see how to best help. They may talk to you or to the other students involved. Sometimes your teacher will help you to solve the problem, and other times they will ask the Principal or Assistant Principal to get involved in helping.

Help with bullying concerns always has two goals -- to keep the safety and order for everyone at our school, and to focus on the skills that we need so that the mean or bullying behaviors do not happen again.

All reports that are received, and the help given by adults, will be kept confidential, or private, so that everyone involved can feel safe.