POLICY STATEMENT - OUYEN P-12 College

Bullying Policy

Bullying has no place in the school environment. It is unacceptable that an individual or group can, physically, emotionally, racially or verbally abuse, exploit, hurt or scare others. Bullying has a negative effect on learning, social engagement and development, and may lead to extreme outcomes. It is illegal to harass others and our duty of care demands we address any problem associated with any form of bullying.

Purpose:

- to ensure that the College is a healthy, safe and happy environment that encourages learning and positive attitudes
- to raise the awareness of staff, students and the wider college community of the negative effects that bullying has on individuals
- to discourage bullying and to provide appropriate behaviour models
- to encourage staff and students to report incidences of bullying and to assure them that by reporting such incidents, they are protecting the health and well being of all members of the college community.
- to provide appropriate management strategies that assist members of the college community to eliminate (reduce) bullying and to encourage positive attitudes.

Guidelines:

- Students are expected to obey all College rules and regulations
- Members of staff are expected to:
  - act as exemplary role models in their dealings with one another, students and other community members
  - acknowledge, address and work toward resolving bullying issues
  - develop their understanding of bullying to ensure that they are confident and consistent in dealing with the ongoing management of bullying issues
- The College will conduct an ongoing campaign to educate students, staff, parents and the community of the harmful effects of bullying. Students and parents are to be consulted regarding any new program
- Bullying should be included as a specific topic of discussion in relevant curriculum areas
- All programs should promote self-esteem, positive relationships, improved social skills and a sense of community pride
- Positive behaviours are to be encouraged in an environment that is supportive and tolerant of individual differences
- Assistance will be offered to the victims of bullying
- Incidences of bullying are to be recorded and the offenders identified and counselled
- Families and students will be provided with support and suggested strategies to redress the effects of bullying
- The College extra curricular program should assist in combating bullying through the promotion of student confidence, health and well-being
- Programs at senior levels must attempt to adequately prepare students for the attitudes and circumstances they may meet after they leave the college
- Bullying prevention and intervention programs should be developed in consultation with the Primary feeder schools to ensure a consistent district approach

Approved by College Council – 15/6/10