

## BULLYING

St. Patrick Catholic School has established an anti-bullying policy. We believe that everyone should enjoy our school and feel safe, secure and accepted. It does not matter what color, race, gender, or nationality we are. It also does not matter how popular, how much athletic ability, or how smart, we are all equal in God's eyes.

What is Bullying?

Bullying happens when someone hurts or scares another person on purpose and the person being bullied has a hard time defending himself or herself. Usually, bullying happens OVER AND OVER.

- Punching, shoving and other acts that hurt people physically
- Spreading rumors about people
- Keeping certain people out of a "group"
- Teasing people in a mean way
- Getting certain people to "gang up" on others

Bullying also can happen online or electronically. Cyberbullying is when children or teens bully each other using the internet, mobile phones, or other cyber technology. This can include:

- Sending mean text, email, or instant messages
- Posting nasty pictures or messages about others in blogs or on websites
- Using someone else's username to spread rumors or lies about someone else

Bullying is NOT...

Normal conflict can occur any time or place and is generally accidental and resolved by the parties in conflict.

Bullying behaviors occur where the person bullying feels safe engaging in power seeking behavior which is intentionally harmful and directed at someone who is considered weak or vulnerable and generally is resolved by third party intervention.

A certain level of conflict between kids is normal, even healthy, and teaching your child how to handle everyday difficulties will prepare him or her for life. The problem begins when it surpasses normal childhood conflict and meets the three common markers for bullying: an imbalance of power, intent to harm, and threat of future harm. Once a conflict between one or more kids has escalated into a cycle of bullying, employing conflict resolution to solve the problem is no longer appropriate. The word "conflict" assumes that both kids are in part responsible for the current problem and need to work it out. In the process of working it out, both kids make compromises and the conflict is resolved.

Tattling versus Reporting/Telling

Tattling is when someone is trying to get someone else in trouble. Reporting or Telling is when someone is trying to get help so as to resolve a problem.

"Are you telling me to be harmful (tattling) or helpful (reporting)?"

"Are you trying to get someone in trouble?" (tattling)

"Are you trying to help discipline my students?" (tattling)

"Are you having a problem with bullying?" (reporting)

"Are you helping a friend who is hurt?" (reporting)

Students at St. Patrick Catholic School are instructed by Administration, Counselors, and Teachers to report bullying immediately to ensure appropriate responses.

The teachers, staff, and administration of St. Patrick Catholic School have a "No Tolerance" policy for bullying. If it is determined that a child is bullying other students, the following action will take place:

First Offense: When an incident is reported to a teacher, the situation will be handled by the child's classroom teacher with a note sent home explaining the incident and the actions taken.

Second Offense: A referral will be made to the school counselor with a note sent home.

Third Offense: A referral will be made to the administration.