Student Anti-Bullying Policy

Rationale
Living in a Christian inclusive community as expressed in the EREA Charter Touchstones involves mutual respect, acceptance of one another and the acknowledgement of the rights and needs of others. Therefore to intentionally offend others, cause them pain, deliberately embarrass them, endanger them or damage their self-esteem is to harm the fabric of our Catholic school environment.

This means that bullying in any form will not be tolerated at St Bernard’s College.

Definition
Bullying is repeated intimidation of a physical, verbal or psychological nature of a less powerful person by a more powerful person or group of persons (Rigby and Slee). This policy includes cyberbullying (refer to Cyberbullying Policy).

Aims
• To raise awareness of the consequences of bullying.
• To reduce the incidence of bullying at the College.
• To implement on-going preventive strategies.
• To restore a respectful relationship between parties.

Implementation
Students being bullied are encouraged:
• Tell the person who is bullying you to stop.
• Do not retaliate.
• Discuss the situation with someone you can trust.
• Report the situation to a College staff member or parent.

Students witnessing bullying are encouraged to:
• Don’t join in.
• Report bullying so that both the person being bullied and the bully can receive help.
• Try to tell persons who are bullying to stop.

Staff who are made aware of bullying will:
• Take some form of action.
• Separate the two parties.
• Reassure both that you can help.
• Inform all involved that bullying behaviour is unacceptable.
• Keep a record of essential details.
• Be sensitive to how the student would like the problem to be solved.
• Refer to Year Level Co-ordinator and/or Counsellor

Parents who become aware of bullying are encouraged to:
• Do not encourage your son to retaliate.
• Keep a written record (who, when, where, what.).
• Inform the Year Level Co-ordinator if bullying is suspected.
• Be willing to attend interviews at the College.
Student Anti-Bullying Policy (continued)

The College responses will include some or all of the following

- Both the person being bullied and the person reported for bullying will be interviewed.
- Parents of those involved may be contacted.
- Students involved may be required to participate in a restorative process including a mutual agreement to desist from future bullying behaviours.
- College based counselling may be recommended if the agreement is broken and subsequent bullying occurs. This may include an interview between the parents of the bully and the College. A period of probation will follow.

Any case of retaliation against a person for reporting bullying will be treated very seriously

Preventative Strategies

- A student survey will be held every year in May to measure the incidence of bullying and to identify any emerging needs. This will be followed up with a Secret Ballot each September.

Evaluation

- The policy will be reviewed in 2014