

## ANTIBULLYING POLICY (Short version)

### Rationale

**Gisborne Secondary College does not tolerate bullying in any form. All members of this community are committed to providing a safe and caring environment which fosters self-esteem and respect for others.**

### What is bullying?

Bullying is defined as repeated acts which cause embarrassment, pain or discomfort to another person. Bullying can take many forms. We consider the following behaviours, repeated, to be bullying:

- Any form of physical violence such as hitting, pushing, shoving, kicking
- Interfering with another person's things by either stealing, damaging, destroying
- Calling people offensive names, teasing, spreading rumours
- Using put-downs, belittling others' abilities and achievements
- Using homophobic name calling such as 'gay'
- Writing offensive notes or sending text to or about others
- Making degrading comments about another person's culture, beliefs, sexuality, religion, ethnicity, gender
- Deliberately excluding others from a group
- Making threats by word, phone, email or gestures, social media
- Forcing others to do things against their will

### Responsibilities of Staff:

- To deal with all reported and observed incidents of bullying
- To ensure that students feel safe at all times in class and in the yard
- To help create a classroom and school culture which does not accept any form of bullying
- Survey students regularly to monitor the level of bullying within the school
- Model tolerance and respect for each other

### Responsibilities of Students:

- To report if they are bullied or if they see someone else being bullied - both at school and on the way to and from school.
- To demonstrate respect and not bully others

### Responsibilities of Parents:

- To watch for signs that their son/daughter is being bullied or may be bullying others
- To speak to the school personnel, (Mentor Teacher/Head of House or Learning Centre Leader/Student Welfare Coordinator/Chaplain), if their son/daughter is being bullied
- To encourage their son/daughter to report when bullying takes place
- To develop positive relationships where respect for others is being modelled in the home

### REPORTING OF BULLYING

**There are no innocent bystanders in a bullying incident. Reporting bullying is a mature and responsible thing to do.**