Anti-Bullying Policy

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

At Xavier College we believe in the dignity of each and every person. We share in the belief that every person has a right to be safe, secure and happy. We value above all the conviction of our oneness in the Lord.

In the light of this belief we do not tolerate violence of any kind, whether it is physical, verbal or social. We make no apologies for this fact. We stand by it, irrespective of any stance in society or popular portrayal in the media, which may suggest the contrary.

Our patron, Saint Francis Xavier, belonged to a group of men, the Society of Jesus, who also shared this belief. When they gathered together for the first time, 450 years ago, they came from different cultures, nations and races. They shared long histories of suspicions, animosities and welfare, yet, they became “friends in the Lord”.

What is bullying?

Bullying is any conscious behaviour intended to hurt another person, either physically or emotionally.

- make hurtful and racial comments
- commenting on social/family backgrounds
- picking on others
- unwanted touching, hitting, teasing and mocking
- spreading rumours
- intimidation, threats or belittlement
- deliberately excluding
- taking or damaging property
- sending hurtful notes

Bullying is a serious issue

Bullying is not “OK”.

- As a student of Xavier College it is not only your right, but your responsibility to report bullying to a teacher, whether it happens to you or to someone else. Your silence says that bullying is tolerated.

Who are the bullies?

Anyone can be a bully – all of us. We all have the capacity and, occasionally the inclination to be hurtful.

Any person who aims to hurt someone else by causing either physical or emotional pain is a bully. Some bullies do the hurting themselves, some are ringleaders and some are members of a group. Others unintentionally encourage bullies by watching when bullying occurs and failing to intervene or report the bullying.

What can you do if you are a witness to bullying?

We need to work together if we are to have a safe school.

- We hope that you care enough to want to do something
- If possible, you could intervene as the bullying occurs by simply saying “cut it out”, “leave him /her alone”, or “stop it”.
- If you cannot act immediately, it is helpful to report the incident to a member of staff as soon as you can. You may need to establish that you want privacy and confidentiality. You may wish to make an anonymous report that will alert staff to a trouble spot, a bully or a victim.
- Offer support and friendship to the victim. Make suggestions about handling it. Encourage the victim to get help from a member of staff or their family.

We do not tolerate bullying at Xavier College
The school:

- Expects a high standard of behaviour at all times
- Is committed to striving to provide a safe and caring environment for everyone, where the right of every person to be free from all forms of bullying is observed.
- Encourages and positively reinforces behaviour which is courteous and considerate
- Is educating the students about issues related to bullying behaviour
- Offers support to all students through our pastoral care system and the pastoral care role of all teachers

Bullying may take place using electronic medium. This includes text messages, email, chat rooms, Facebook and other social media. Bullying that takes place in this manner is termed **Cyber Bullying**. Cyber Bullying is treated in the same way as other forms of bullying, even if this occurs outside school hours it still impacts the school community. Any student being cyber bullied needs to report it to someone immediately and if possible print out transcripts. Any threats made in relation to cyber bullying may be brought to the attention of the police. It is recognised that cyber bullying is a significant issue in the community and as such needs to be treated with all seriousness.