

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the school on 53342244.



Students:

Please sign the support form below to indicate that you want our school to be a safe school for everybody.

I have read and discussed the School Anti - Bullying Code of Conduct with my teacher. I am aware that it is against school rules to bully another person.

Name:

Date:

Signature:

Parents/ Guardians:

Please sign the support form below and return **this page only** to your child's class teacher.
Thank you.

I have read and discussed the School Anti - Bullying Code of Conduct with my child. I support the school in implementing this Policy.

Name:

Date:

Signature:

St Thomas More Primary School, Alfredton



Anti- Bullying Code of Conduct

Reporting of Bullying

Children and their parents can report incidents of bullying to any teacher or the Principal.

Responding To Reported Incidents of Bullying

When a bullying incident is reported or observed we will use the following graded sanctions:

- Discuss the incident with the children involved, using the Restorative Practises Script, and remind them that such behaviour is not acceptable in our school.
- Warn the bully of the consequences of further incidents.
- Record information regarding the incident.
- Monitor the behaviour of the children involved following this discussion.
- If the bullying behaviour is repeated, a meeting involving child, parents/carer, teacher and Principal will be held.
- Serious bullying may exclude the child from the playground or from school.

The staff will be responsible for the administering of the Restorative Practises process, and ensuring that incidents of bullying are dealt with in a manner consistent with the process as soon as possible after it is reported or observed.

Evaluating the Code of Conduct

We will evaluate the code of Conduct after twelve months. It will be evaluated by:

- Noting if there has been a reduction in reported incidents of bullying
- Speaking to students and parents who have reported incidents to find out whether the problem has been resolved.

Review

We will review the Code of Conduct each year by:

- Reminding students, teachers and parents of our policy.
- Presenting classroom activities on bullying.
- Conducting a survey of the student population.

St. Thomas More Primary School

Anti- Bullying Code of Conduct

Rationale

At St Thomas More we believe that the school is a place of education where each child has the right to learn and grow in a supportive environment among people who are caring and cooperative.

St. Thomas More Primary School's Vision and Mission Statement states;

'St Thomas More Primary School is an educating community with Christ as its centre point and inspiration. It educates for service in faith, hope and love.'

As a consequence of our Vision Statement, St Thomas More Primary School will:

- *provide a secure learning environment where justice, friendship and happiness are paramount.*

The school's Religious Education Program and Discipline Policy ensure that appropriate behaviour is taught not as a separate curriculum item but as an integral part of the teaching process.

Students at St. Thomas More Primary School participate in classroom programs, such as the PATHS program and Circle Time, which aim to develop resiliency and the enhancement of positive social behaviours and relationships. Students are further enriched through participation in the wider school program including the camp and excursion program and inter-school sporting events.

St. Thomas More Primary School is committed to providing a safe and caring environment that supports student growth, self worth and well-being. St Thomas More Primary School actively promotes appropriate forms of behaviour in all areas of the school. We do not condone bullying or harassment under any circumstances.

Our Definition of Bullying

St. Thomas More Primary School defines bullying/ harassment as *'repeated or systematic verbal and/or physical actions which cause others harm.'*

Bullying can take many forms. We consider the following behaviour to be bullying:

Physical	Verbal	Indirect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hitting, kicking, punching • Pushing, shoving, spitting • Making rude gestures • Taking or damaging something which belongs to somebody else • Forcing others to hand over food, money or something which belongs to them • Making someone do something they don't want to do 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name calling • Teasing • Threatening • Making fun of someone because of their appearance, physical characteristics or cultural background • Making fun of someone's actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excluding someone from the game or group • Spreading untrue stories about others • Using any type of technology to threaten, tease or put down others.

Strategies We Will Use to Deal with Bullying

At St. Thomas More Primary School we will:

- Identify feelings, and appropriate and inappropriate behaviours through the teaching of the PATHS program Prep – 6.
- Openly talk about bullying - what it is, how it affects us and what we can do about it.
- Teach our children the skills, which build their self-esteem and empower them to take the responsibility for themselves - and give them the opportunity to practise these skills.

St. Thomas More Primary School also encourages our staff, students and parents to assist in the prevention of bullying in the following ways:

We ask Staff to:

- Model appropriate behaviours at all times.
- Deal with all reported and observed incidences of bullying, using the Restorative Practises Script endorsed by the Ballarat Catholic Education Office.
- Ensure that children are supervised at all times.
- Report incidents of bullying to the Principal, if this is warranted.

We ask Students to:

- Report to a teacher if they are being bullied or if they see someone else being bullied.
- Refuse to be involved in any form of bullying.
- Assist other students who may be the victims of such behaviours.

We ask Parents to:

- Report that their child is being bullied or if they suspect that this is happening.
- To instruct their children to 'tell' if they are bullied.