



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

St Mary's School aims to provide a safe and secure environment where:

- individual differences are appreciated, understood and accepted
- individuals empathise with each other and offer each other support
- bullying is reported and the necessary steps are taken to eliminate such behaviour

St Mary's School does not tolerate bullying in any form and all members of the school staff are committed to promoting a safe and caring environment for the girls. Staff, girls and parents will work together to address issues of bullying when these arise.

Definition

Bullying is aggressive behaviour or harassment by an individual or a group, repeated over time, which intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can be physical or non-physical in nature.

Physical bullying

Physical bullying includes, but is not limited to, punching, kicking, tripping, pushing, taking and/or damaging possessions, threatening someone, extortion and preventing someone from entering or leaving an area or room.

Non-physical bullying

Non-physical bullying includes but is not limited to

- *Provocative behaviour, such as* making rude gestures and pulling faces, producing offensive graffiti and the wearing of racist badges or insignia
- *Verbal bullying, such as* name-calling, making fun of another person, being repeatedly critical, prolonged unkind teasing, making threats and making racist, sexist or homophobic comments
- *Relational bullying, such as* spreading rumours and gossiping, the breaking of confidences and the deliberate splitting of a friendship and stealing of a best friend to isolate and hurt a person
- *Sexual harassment, such as* the spread of sexual gossip, making sexual innuendos and jokes and making derogatory comments about someone's appearance
- *Cyberbullying, such as* the sending of cruel or threatening text, email, or instant messages, posting nasty pictures or messages about others in blogs or on web sites, making unkind comments about another child in text or instant messages, in emails or chat rooms, taking explicit photographs and sending them on to others and "stealing" someone's identity to spread rumours or lies about another person