

STAND UP *to bullying*



Every student has the right to feel safe and be protected from harm. A safe school environment can be established and maintained if all school community members are committed to taking

an active role in ensuring respectful relationships. Students, parents and staff have a responsibility to help set standards of positive behaviours and attitudes at Dominic College and to counter individual or group aggression. At Dominic College, harassment and bullying are neither accepted nor tolerated. Respect, kindness and the ready hand of friendship are our expectations of all.

Beth Gilligan – Dominic College Principal



Two years ago, in conjunction with the 2013 National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence, we launched the Dominic College Safe School

Policy following an intense period of reflection and assessment. We're committed to regular assessment of these ways of reporting and actions to ensure that Dominic College is a safe school.

Andrew Pritchard – Director of Pastoral Care

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the policy you can contact any of the following: Andrew Pritchard, Aaron Davey, Katherine Hewitt, Chris Wright or Jo Jeffery, by calling the College on 6274 6000. Their emails are listed at www.dominic.tas.edu.au/contact-us

Safe school policy resources are available from our website or from government websites such as bullyingnoway.com.au or cybersmart.com.au



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Safe School Policy

DOMINIC
COLLEGE

A Catholic School in the Salesian Tradition

Dominic College's Safe School Policy reinforces an environment where bullying is not accepted, is easily reported and is dealt with quickly. The policy has direct consequences for those who bully and harass and proclaims to the entire school community how seriously Dominic College takes bullying and harassment issues.

DOMINIC COLLEGE RESPONDS AT AN ESCALATING LEVEL

- 1** For a FIRST or MINOR INSTANCE consequences for the bullying student include: they are warned, parents are contacted, educative detention, mediation and the incident is recorded on the College's Bullying Register.
- 2** Then a REPEAT or a MAJOR INSTANCE will lead to additional consequences including a formal warning, formal suspension, and compulsory counseling.
- 3** If there is FURTHER REPEAT or a SERIOUS INSTANCE immediate formal suspension and reconsideration of enrolment.

Bullying involves repeated aggressive behaviour, overt and covert, and the misuse of power. It is not disagreeing or not liking someone. Nor is it a single case of violence or spite, which are also unacceptable and require counseling. Bullying is a repeated pattern of harmful behaviour. And it can include intentionally and falsely accusing another student of bullying.

STUDENTS

What should you do if you are harassed or bullied?

Tell the person harassing you to stop. Be assertive and look them in the eye. Tell them their comments, behaviour or contact is unwelcome and offensive.

Stay calm and walk away. If the harassment/bullying continues then tell someone and report it.

How do you report bullying?

You should stand up to bullying by reporting it. Bullies don't want adults to know about what they do. So they want you to keep their behavior secret. Don't do what they want. Don't give in to them. Don't obey bullies.

DOB stands for Don't Obey Bullies. If you don't report bullying then you allow it to keep happening.

- ✓ You can report bullying or harassing behaviour at any time. Tell your teacher and your parents/guardians.
- ✓ Call our Safe School message bank on 6274 6088 and leave your report. A member of the Pastoral Care Team will respond.
- ✓ You can email: safeschool@dominic.tas.edu.au

What happens after a report is made?

A Pastoral Care Team member will immediately begin an investigation. They will record summaries of all interviews and record all statements. The Director of Pastoral Care will make a finding on the bullying or harassment.

What should you do if you see bullying?

- ✓ You should comfort and support the person who has been bullied. Tell the offender that the behaviour was unacceptable.
- ✓ Help the person to report the incident or be prepared to report the behaviour yourself.

Students who support harassment, by laughing at others being bullied, filming bullying or 'liking' offensive posts on social networking sites will be treated as offenders. Even by doing nothing, you are supporting the bully!

PARENTS - How can you help?

Actively keep an interest in your children's social life. Watch for signs of distress. Encourage your children to report harassing or bullying behaviour to a staff member. Contact the College if your children are unwilling to report the behaviour.

Report to the College any suspected harassment/bullying: even if your own children are not involved.

Do not encourage your children to fight back. Fighting back confuses the clear consequences of their actions for the bully, and encourages them to engage in further aggressive behavior. Your children will face a conflict in what they are hearing from home and in their class.