Bullying Policy

Policy Statement:
St Mary’s School seeks to provide an environment where all members of the school community reflect Gospel values, responsible behaviour and an attitude of respect for self and others.

Bullying affects all members of the school community, not simply the bully and the victim but also those other students and family members who may witness violence, intimidation and the distress of the victim. It can damage the atmosphere of a class and even the community of a school. For these reasons, it will not be tolerated and will be addressed immediately and consistently, at St Mary’s School.

Definition:
For the purposes of this policy: Bullying is the unwanted oppression of one person by another person or group. It may be physical, verbal, psychological or social. Harassment is the continual process of such negative action. This can lead to harm to people’s physical and emotional well-being as well as property.

Rationale:
St Mary’s School is based on Christian values. Our school seeks and affirms each student’s worth, dignity and vocation. Our school community endorses each teacher’s right to teach, each student’s right to learn and the right to feel safe in the school environment. Bullying undermines such values and prevents students from achieving their full potential in the educational and social setting.

Consequences:
1. St Mary’s will follow set procedures and guidelines when dealing with bullying and harassment.
2. St Mary’s will inform the broader school community on the bullying/harassment procedures and guidelines, its reporting and potential responses, during the enrolment process and throughout the year.
3. Incidents of bullying and harassment will be managed in a pastoral and just manner, supported by the procedures and guidelines, including restorative justice at the appropriate time.

Disciplinary consequences that may be implemented depending on the severity and number of instances of issues will include

1. withdraw from mid and end of term rewards
2. withdraw from playground
3. internal suspension
4. external suspensions
5. consideration of continued education at St Mary’s Primary School