Good Samaritan Catholic College, Hinchinbrook
Bullying Policy

This policy:
- is endorsed by the College Executive
- is available on the school’s website at http://www.goodsamaritan.nsw.edu.au/general_info/policies
- has been distributed to staff
- is referenced in the student diary
- was last reviewed - November 2010

Policy statement
At Good Samaritan Catholic College all members of the College community are committed to sustaining a Christian, safe and caring environment, which promotes personal growth and positive self-esteem. All students have rights and responsibilities and it is important the community works towards a common goal. The College does not tolerate bullying in any form.

Definition
Bullying is an act of aggression causing embarrassment, pain or discomfort to another. It can take a number of forms: physical, verbal, gesture, extortion and exclusion; it is an abuse of power: it can be planned and organised or it may be unintentional; individuals or groups maybe involved.

Examples of Bullying
- Physical violence such as hitting, pushing, spitting;
- Interfering with property by hiding, damaging, stealing and destroying;
- Offensive Language, teasing, rumours regarding individuals, groups, and family;
- Belittling others abilities and/or achievements;
- Offensive notes, writing, graffiti about others;
- Cyber bullying; examples include, comments posted about individuals on social networking sites such as face book, e-mails, phone calls, text messages and anonymous letters or photographs
- Degrading comments regarding another’s culture, religious or social background;
- Hurtful exclusion from groups;
- Suggestive comments or other forms of sexual abuse;
- Ridiculing another’s appearance;
- Forcing others to act against their will by any means.
### Procedures

#### 1.1 Combating Bullying
- Anti-bullying programmes are part of the College’s Pastoral Care Programme;
- All members of the College community are encouraged to respect each other’s individual rights, in particular the right to feel safe and to learn in a safe environment;
- Any reports of bullying are investigated and action taken as appropriate;
- Students are encouraged to report incidents of bullying to their Year Co-ordinator or another staff member;
- Parents are encouraged to reinforce the fact that bullying is not acceptable in any form. They should inform the College of any incidents of bullying or encourage their son/daughter to inform appropriate persons at the College.

#### 2 Consequences

##### 2.1
- Students who are found to be the perpetrators of bullying behaviours will be dealt with in a serious manner. As a general rule their parents will be informed and they will be punished in a manner which is appropriate to the bullying incident. Serious and repeated bullying may lead to a student being suspended from the College.
- Students found to be the perpetrators of bullying behaviours will be referred to the College Student Welfare Officer

##### 2.2
- Students who are found to be the victims of bullying behaviours will be supported by the college community including but not limited to their PC teachers and Year Coordinator.
- Students who are found to be the victims of bullying behaviours are offered the services of the Students Welfare Officer.

##### 2.3
- As a community it is important that the opportunity for reconciliation between the victim and perpetrator be available. Where the Victim is open to this the College will facilitate the conversation. This conversation will be as a means of empowering the victim and an opportunity for the perpetrator to gain insight into the impact their behaviours and actions have had on the victim.