

SECTION 2 : STUDENTS

2.3 BULLYING / HARASSMENT

RATIONALE

A Spirituality of the Heart, on which the ethos of Daramalan College is based, presupposes that all members of the Daramalan community will have a deep respect for one another. This means that all members of the school community have a right to participate, learn and work in an environment free from all forms of bullying and harassment, so that learning, personal growth and self esteem are promoted and an atmosphere where trust, acceptance and compassion prevail.

POLICY

Bullying/harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. Reported incidents of bullying and/or harassment will be treated seriously and investigated promptly, confidentially and impartially. Appropriate action will be taken in line with Student Welfare Policy.

EXPLANATION OF TERMS

Bullying/harassment is any behaviour (including of a sexual nature) which is enacted by individuals or groups and which causes a person or group to feel or experience degradation or lack of self worth, intimidation, abuse or to have their property damaged. It includes the reckless indifference to and/or the wilful conscious desire to hurt, threaten or frighten someone.

Different forms of bullying/harassment include:

1. **Physical** includes fighting; pushing; shoving; throwing objects; gestures; invasion of personal space; taking, hiding or damaging personal property.
2. **Verbal** includes name calling; offensive language; putting people down directly or behind their backs, and by spreading rumours. It can also be by innuendo.
3. **Visual** includes offensive notes; gestures; graffiti; graphics and images.
4. **Sexual** includes unwelcome or uninvited touching; unwelcome or uninvited comments; attention or other behaviour of a sexual nature that makes one feel embarrassed, uncomfortable, intimidated, upset, frightened, anxious, humiliated or offended.
5. **Victimisation** includes standover tactics; threats to "get" people; repeated exclusion or isolation of a peer; spreading of rumours about a person; persistent unkind teasing; use of intimidation;; the deliberate interference of a person's right to engage in lawful activities.
6. **Misuse of Technology** includes electronic communications, such as cyber bullying, text messaging, email, chat rooms.

APPLICATION

1. Students, parents/guardians and staff have a responsibility to report any school related incidents of bullying/harassment either to class teachers, pastoral leaders, counsellors, assistant principals and/or principal.
2. Students affected by an incident will be offered support and care, which may include professional counselling and therapy.
3. The response of the school to an incident will be in accordance with the current student welfare policy.

Revised & Re-approved June 16, 2015