

TO PROMOTE POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS AT MMCP WE PLEDGE TO:

- Use the Positive Relationship Policy to build resilience in our students.
- Respond appropriately to reports of hurtful behaviour using the Positive Relationship Policy.
- Teach ways of building positive relationships and resolving conflict through the curriculum, the College's Pastoral Care, Peer Support and Responsible Thinking Process (RTP) programs.
- Ensure all staff and students are aware of the College's Positive Relationship Policy and that staff are engaged in ongoing professional development to confidently enforce it.
- Display visual reminders of the College's policy and how to enact it.
- Collect data to inform policy decisions.

STEPS FOR STUDENTS WHO STRUGGLE TO ENGAGE IN POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS:

1. Students are interviewed by their PC teacher, Pastoral Leader, or member of the College Leadership Team. Parents/carers may be notified at this stage.
2. Students may be required to go through the Responsible Thinking Process to complete a plan to address their behaviour stating how they will repair the relationship and act differently in the future.
3. Students may have to be internally suspended or spend time at home to think about how they can become more positive members of our community.

FOR STUDENTS:

If you think bullying is happening to you:

- Talk to a teacher or your parent/carer.
- **Keep talking to them until things start to change for the better.**
- Don't retaliate or respond. This might make things worse or get you in trouble too.
- Where possible, avoid the bully and their friends—block them on social media and change your privacy settings.
- Take screenshots of online bullying and ask friends who have witnessed the bullying to report it with you.
- If others keep trying to talk to you about the bullying, ask them to report it to a teacher instead.

What should you do if you see bullying?

- Tell an adult at home or at school.
- Say something supportive to the person being hurt. Let them know you have seen it and you care about them. You could say: *"I know you must feel pretty bad, but they are the one with the problem."*, *"Do you want me to come with you to the office to tell a teacher about this?"*, *"Would you like to come and hang out with us?"*
- If you hear rumours or gossip, say *"I'm not interested,"* and don't repeat it.
- Don't resend or respond to messages that are offensive.



Mt Maria College Petrie

*Inspired by Maximilian Kolbe
and Marcellin Champagnat*



Mt Maria College Petrie PRP Positive Relationship Policy

At Mt Maria College Petrie, students, caregivers and staff have the expectation that everyone will be treated with respect and dignity. We are all committed to nurturing positive relationships.

This document describes our processes and procedures for building positive relationships and dealing with bullying.

At Mt Maria College Petrie our focus is on teaching students to build and maintain positive relationships. This policy outlines what positive relationships are and how we promote them. Sometimes relationships break down and this can lead to bullying. This policy describes how the Mt Maria College Petrie Community works collaboratively in such situations to ensure the wellbeing and education of all.

POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS ARE DEMONSTRATED WHEN...

Students and staff stand up to harmful or hurtful talk and actions by challenging and reporting the behaviour (while still supporting all). We do this by being:

- Inclusive
- Considerate
- Supportive
- Helpful
- Polite

POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS DO NOT INVOLVE:

- Saying hurtful things
- Excluding others
- Offensive behaviour
- Ignoring others in need of help

FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is not always clear cut and easy to identify. For 'bullying' to occur it must:

- Be repeated
- On purpose
- Directed towards a less powerful person or group who cannot fight back

*Unfortunately, school students often get involved in fights. They may be hurting each other on purpose and repeatedly, **but all students are equally responsible for the hurt going back and forth.** In this case, we can help your son and daughter by offering mediation or strategies to resolve the conflict.*

CONSEQUENCES OF BULLYING:

Bullying can lead to changes in your child's behaviour, such as:

- Suddenly avoiding school or social activities
- Changes in mood
- Sudden decline in academic performance
- Changes in sleep patterns



FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT BULLYING?

- Talk to your child and offer your support. Thank them for opening up to you.
- Stay calm. Your child will look to you as a guide on how to react.
- Ask your child what they would like you to do. *They may not want you to contact the school for fear of the bullying becoming worse. Let them know that if you do nothing, nothing will change. Reassure them that you will talk to the school together and they will be involved in deciding what action is taken.*
- Contact your child's Pastoral Care teacher.

TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY, PLEASE:

- Inform us as soon as you are concerned that bullying is taking place.
- Understand that we may need time to investigate the bullying before making a decision on a course of action.
- Appreciate that as our policy is not about focussing on punishment, but rather upskilling all people involved, the College cannot always discuss all details relating to a situation. There may be privacy issues.
- Be aware that when bullying happens outside the College, we will need to work collaboratively to ensure that students feel comfortable and safe coming to school.