

Copperfield College Bullying Policy

Introduction: Bullying of any kind is not tolerated at Copperfield College. We aim to create a caring community in which bullying is recognised as wrong and unacceptable and where the reporting of bullying is encouraged and expected.

Definition: Bullying includes:

- verbal abuse (name calling, racist remarks, teasing, comments about another person's appearance, financial status etc.)
- physical attacks (pushing, hitting, hair pulling, spitting etc.)
- social exclusion (ignoring, spreading rumors, alienating etc.)
- psychological abuse (gestures, looks or comments that instil fear)
- written abuse (offensive notes, graffiti, emails, chat, SMS)
- standover tactics, including threatening to 'get' people or have others 'get' them

Preventative Strategies: All College staff must model non-bullying behaviour by treating each other, students and parents with respect and courtesy. The college provides:

- Team structures which promote a close connection between students and their teachers
- Surveys which identify bullies
- Conflict resolution and social skill building as part of the curriculum
- Anti-bullying programs, eg. through Brimbank Council

Response to Bullying: All reported incidents of bullying will be investigated. Incidents will be dealt with in a way which reduces the possibility of recurrence or retribution. Initially discussion with the students involved will take place using the *Method of Shared Concern*. Where this is not effective or the incident is more serious decisions will be made as to further action by the Campus Leader/Campus Principal. Students may be referred to the Welfare team or outside agencies for training in assertiveness or conflict resolution. Discipline sanctions in line with the Student Code of Conduct (including suspension) will be applied to bullies who fail to abandon their bullying behaviour after staff intervention.

Copperfield College Homework Policy

Students are expected to do homework or home study *every night*. Homework may take the form of reading school novels or texts, research, artwork, revision or completion of set classwork.

Expected homework or home study

- Years 7 and 8 – 1 hour per night
- Years 9 and 10 – 1-2 hours per night
- Years 11 and 12 – 2-3 hours per night

It should be noted that the amount of home study / revision should increase in the periods leading up to exams. It is also important that students should be reading regularly – either school-related or for pleasure.