



HCCS

Hills Christian Community School

Faith • Nurture • Community • Learning

PARENT INFORMATION

Harassment and Bullying at School

As a Christian school our desire is to demonstrate God's compassion and love towards one another

All members of the school community have the right to:

- **Respect from others**
- **Learn or teach**
- **Feel safe and secure in their school environment**

What is bullying?

A person is harassed when they are exposed to actions, attitudes or behaviours that cause them to feel unsafe and uncomfortable.

A person is bullied when one or more people intentionally expose them regularly and over time to negative or harmful actions or words.

Bullies are people who deliberately set out to intimidate, coerce, torment, oppress, exclude, threaten and / or hurt others repeatedly.

It might be:

- **Name calling**
- **Teasing**
- **Making sexist or racist remarks**
- **Social exclusion**

or any other actions, behaviours or attitudes that may harm another person.

How can I tell if my child is being bullied?

Children who are being bullied or harassed may choose not to talk about it with their teachers. They may be afraid that it will only make things worse or they may feel that it is wrong to tell tales.

That is why, as a parent or caregiver, you have an important part to play in helping the school, and your child, deal with bullying.

Possible signs that a child is being bullied may be:

- **unexplained cuts, bruises or scratches**
- **damaged or ripped clothing**
- **vague headaches or stomach aches**
- **refusal to go to school**
- **asking for extra pocket money or food**
- **tearfulness or depression.**

What should I do if my child is being bullied?

If your child is being harassed or bullied, it is important that you remain calm and take the following steps:-

- **Listen carefully to your child**
- **Let your child know that telling you about the harassment or bullying is the right thing to do.**
- **Find out:**
 - **what happened**
 - **who was involved**
 - **where it happened**
 - **if anyone else saw it.**
- **Talk with your child about what should be done.**



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Tell the school.

Your child may not want to tell the school about the harassment or bullying, however it is important that you contact your child's class teacher as soon as you become aware of the problem.

The school has an Open Door Policy which encourages parents to make a time to discuss issues with their child's class teacher.

When meeting with the teacher be as clear as possible about what happened.

Ask what else you can do to help your child and the school to stop the harassment or bullying from happening again.

In managing instances of harassment and bullying, the school will take into consideration several key factors.

- **Duty of care will be provided for all children (victim/s and perpetrator's) throughout the process**
- **The different and specific needs of particular children will be taken into account in assessing and dealing with any harassment and bullying issues**
- **Within the school environment, the professional judgment of teachers should be recognized and respected**
- **All children involved in harassment and bullying will be counseled and supported in every step of this behaviour management process**

What will the school do?

HCCS will follow up any, and every, issue of Harassment and Bullying at School with the involvement of the most appropriate staff member.

In many instances the teacher will be able to deal with the issue but sometimes the School Chaplain, Deputy Principal or Principal may need to be involved. The staff member will communicate to the victim's family the outcomes of the conversations.

Students who are the perpetrators of bullying will be interviewed and counselled with families contacted. Should the behaviour continue, HCCS will invoke the Behaviour Management Policy as outlined in the Parent Information Booklet which states:

"Our School seeks to help children accept responsibility for their behaviour and to make good choices in their actions. A system of warnings and then removal, in the case of unacceptable behaviour, is used to help children reflect on their behaviour and ways of rectifying it. The process involves class reflection time, reflection time in a buddy class and conversations with Senior Staff.

The end points of continued inappropriate behaviour choices may be suspension or expulsion. Parents are very involved during the Behaviour Management process.