

BULLYING PREVENTION AND RESPONSE POLICY

**NAG 5
No. 511**

Purpose

To foster and develop a safe, positive, physical and emotional school environment.

Guidelines

1. Definition

Bullying behavior is not a single action. The definition of bullying is that it:

- Is deliberate
- Involves a power imbalance
- Has an element of repetition
- Is harmful

Bullying behaviour can be physical, verbal, social or sexual, and can take place in the physical world or digitally.

2. Prevention

Students, staff, parents and Whānau share the responsibility for making St Heliers School a respectful and inclusive environment. The school will:

- Use a range of activities including curriculum based programmes to develop the ability for students to relate to each other
- Promote digital citizenship throughout the ICT programmes, and promote safe use of technology (through our ICT Use Agreements)
- Teach skill sets that promote student self-management
- Support student-led peer to peer initiatives such as buddy classes

Early notification of suspected or actual cases of bullying is crucial in formulating a response.

3. Response

There will be a consistent response to all incidents of bullying reported in our school.

- All reported incidents of bullying will be taken seriously and followed up as appropriate
- More serious incidents will be escalated to senior management and advice and involvement from outside agencies will be sought if necessary
- We will involve parents and Whānau as early as possible and as appropriate
- We will provide appropriate support for targets, bystanders and initiators of bullying behaviour
- We will regularly monitor all incidents of bullying and identify patterns of behaviour.