Anti Bullying Policy

Harassment is viewed by Simonds Catholic College as Unacceptable Behaviour

All members of the school community have the right to feel safe and comfortable.

Any reports of harassment will be investigated thoroughly and in accordance with the bullying/harassment policy.

WHAT IS HARASSMENT?

It is verbal, non verbal or physical behaviour which is unwelcome and uninvited. Such behaviour may be offensive to some people but not others. It will usually be repeated behaviour, but can also consist of a single act.

Harassment has the effect of offending, humiliating or bullying the person to whom it is directed. It can sometimes be the result of behaviour which is not intended to offend or harm, such as jokes or unwanted attention. The fact that harassment is not intended does not make the behaviour acceptable.

VERBAL HARASSMENT/BULLYING

- name calling
- racist comments
- making derogatory remarks about a person's family
- obscene telephone calls, letters, faxes, e-mails or text messages
- rumours placed on MYSPACE pages
- put downs
- knocking achievers
- threatening remarks
- telling offensive, sexual or racist jokes
- spreading rumours
- making comments that have a sexual innuendo

NON-VERBAL HARASSMENT/BULLYING

- mimicking someone with a disability
- offensive gestures
- practical jokes which are unwelcome
- using offensive body language
- displaying offensive cartoons, literature,
- pin-ups or other illustrated or written material which may cause embarrassment or offense (on notice boards, a computer screen, book covers, in a school diary, on websites etc)

PHYSICAL HARASSMENT/BULLYING

- fighting
- using weapons
- spitting
• pulling
• pushing and damaging clothing
• assault
• threatening behaviour
• damaging or interfering with others’ property throwing objects at a person
• invading personal space
• engaging in unwanted physical contact

DEALING WITH HARASSMENT/BULLYING
Don’t just ignore it or hide from it. Tell the harasser to 'STOP', if you are able to do so.
Seek assistance:
  Talk to your parents
  Talk to a teacher
  They will advise you what may be done to stop the harassing behaviour.

If you choose to report the offending behaviour to your Level Coordinator, he/she will investigate the problem and take action to stop the offending behaviour. Boys found to be harassing others will be punished.
You will be protected and retaliation will not be tolerated.

Your confidentiality will be respected at all times.

CONSEQUENCES
• Parents will be notified of actions and will attend an interview with an Assistant Principal (Year Level Coordinator). A written commitment that the offending behaviour stops will be required from the student.
• Detention
• Withdrawal from class
• Students may be required to participate in counselling and/or mediation
• Suspension

HANDS-OFF POLICY
Simonds strives to be a “hands-off” school. To ensure that every person feels safe and is allowed to maintain his dignity, no student is to lay hands on another student. Students who break the “hands-off” policy will receive a warning from a teacher. Following repeated warnings the student will be issued with an after-school detention.