



The Cheverus Catholic School Bullying Prevention and Response Policy 2025-2026

Policy Statement

Cheverus Catholic School is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all students. Bullying is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated in any form. This policy reflects our shared Faith, which affirms that every person is made in the image of Christ and deserves to be treated with dignity and love.

Definition of Bullying

Bullying is defined as **repeated, unwanted, and aggressive behavior** that involves a **real or perceived power imbalance**. It may occur in person, in writing, by phone, or through digital platforms.

Forms of Bullying

- **Verbal Abuse:** Name-calling, teasing, threats, or spreading rumors.
- **Social Exclusion:** Deliberately isolating someone from group activities or friendships.
- **Physical Aggression:** Hitting, pushing, tripping, or damaging property.
- **Cyberbullying:** Harassment via social media, texting, email, or other online platforms.

Faith-Based Foundation

Bullying offends our shared Faith. All students are taught that:

- Every person has **inherent dignity**.
- We are called to treat others with **respect, empathy, equity, and love**.
- Our school community must reflect the values of **Christ-centered compassion and justice**.

Prevention and Education

- Bullying prevention is integrated into the curriculum and school culture.
- Students are regularly taught about empathy, equity, respect, and community.
- Faculty and staff model respectful behavior and intervene proactively.

Reporting and Response

- All concerns regarding bullying are taken seriously.
- Students, parents, and staff are encouraged to report incidents promptly.
- Faculty and staff will consult with the administrative team as needed.

Disciplinary Protocol

Upon the school learning about the incidents, and depending on the severity and frequency of the behavior, and **at the principal's discretion**, the following steps may be taken:

- 1. First Offense**
 - a. Parent/guardian notification.
 - b. Verbal counseling and warning issued to the student.
 - c. Restorative conversation with the affected student(s) if appropriate.
- 2. Second Offense**
 - a. Parent/guardian notification and scheduled meeting.
 - b. The punishment could include but is not limited to loss of lunch and recess time with peers, loss of specialist classes, and more severe cases can also include in-school suspension.
 - c. Reflection assignment on the impact of bullying and school values.
 - d. The school will create an Improvement Plan and call for a meeting with the student and his/her parents.
- 3. Third Offense**
 - a. Suspension or expulsion, based on administrative review.
 - b. Continued support for any affected student/s and families.

Support for Students

- Victims of bullying will receive emotional and academic support.
- The school counselor will be available for mediation and guidance.
- Restorative practices may be used to rebuild trust and community.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective and aligned with our mission.