At Georgetown we believe that all students, staff and community members have the right to work in a safe environment free from bullying and harassment.

Below is our school policy about bullying and the strategies that we would like students and parents to adopt if they feel that bullying is taking place.

Bullying is:

- Verbal, physical and cyber (internet or phone) threats and blackmail
- Verbal Abuse—name calling, teasing, profanity, lying, humiliating, putting down, spreading rumours and setting up others
- Sexual harassment
- Embarrassing others, ganging up
- Excluding people based on gender, culture, area of residence or family background
- Physical violence
- Watching or by-standing while bullying occurs

Our objective is:

- Reduce the number of offences
- Ensure the safety of all students
- Support and assist victims of bullying
- Manage incidents of bullying effectively
- Change behaviour

Bullying can be:

- A single action
- Repeated offences
- One on One
- A group against one
- Group against group
- Over the Internet
- On a phone
- By email or text
Responsibilities of:

**Staff**

- Implement social skills and bullying awareness programs
- Role model anti-bullying behaviour
- Share and discuss policy with school community
- Listen to, support victims and acknowledge the seriousness of the behaviour
- Investigate and assist students in resolving incidents.
- Record and monitor incidents and apply appropriate consequences.
- Contact parents where necessary.
- Regularly review of policy, procedure and forms.
- Be involved in relevant professional development and induction for new staff.
- Use the Relationships policy if Bullying or Harassment is identified

**Students**

- Participate actively in social skills & values programs taught in class.
- Discuss bullying in classes.
- Follow our anti-bullying procedure.
- Work actively to stop bullying.
- Report bullying to staff and parents.
- If bullying occurs, work through the steps outlined in the Relationships policy

**Parents**

- Encourage children to use safe and positive strategies to deal with bullying and report incidents to staff.
- Follow grievance procedures to deal with issues around the school.
- Role model anti-bullying behaviours.
- Talk with staff at the school about issues as they arise. It can help if students receive the same information from 2 different sources.
- If bullying is seen, follow the Grievance Policy.

**Prevention Strategies**

- Teaching for and about diversity and resilience.

- Implementing and practicing strategies from programs including Bounce Back and Friendly Kids, Friendly Classrooms, Rock and Water.

- Provide the means for all staff to attend relevant professional development and share this through staff meetings.

- Ensure SRC have an active and informed role in policy development and decision making processes.

In the event that bullying has taken place, staff at the school will follow the steps outlined in the Relationships policy.

If parents or students have any concerns regarding this policy, or feel that they need extra information to effectively address this issue, feel free to contact the school. We will be more than happy to discuss this issue with you and supply extra ideas or materials to enable you to tackle this serious social issue.