



St Andrew's Parish

CORPUS CHRISTI PRIMARY SCHOOL

29 RUSSELL STREET, WERRIBEE VIC. 3030

Anti-Bullying & Harassment Policy - Students

Rationale

At Corpus Christi Primary School, bullying and harassment are considered to be inappropriate and will not be tolerated. Corpus Christi is committed to providing a positive culture where bullying is not accepted, and in doing so, ensure all have the right to respect from others, the right to learn, and the right to feel safe and secure in their school and digital environment.

Definition

Bullying and harassment are ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening.

Bullying can happen in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert). Bullying behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.

Bullying of any form or for any reason can have immediate, medium and long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders. Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.

These behaviours include:

- Physical aggression (punching, slapping, pushing, tripping, hitting with objects, etc)
- The use of insults, gestures, name-calling or “put-downs”
- The damaging, hiding or removal of property
- The deliberate exclusion from activities on the playground or within the classroom.
- The planning of humiliating experiences
- The use of threats or intimidation (verbal, written, action, looks, etc)
- Abuse via the internet, e-mail, social media, including threats, spreading of rumours, spreading of personal information and any form of cyber-bullying.
- Inappropriate emails, letters, notes, telephone calls, messaging and use of social media

At Corpus Christi we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school.

Aims

To ensure that every member of our school community:

- Feels, and is, safe within the school
- Can expect to have a positive and caring learning and playing environment
- Experiences an environment that nurtures self-esteem
- Understands what constitutes bullying and harassment and knows how to report and seek help for this type of behaviour
- Knows that issues of bullying and harassment, when brought to the attention of those in authority, will be handled in a consistent and positive manner ensuring that the dignity and rights of all concerned are maintained.

Prevention

The school will use a range of methods to educate students and help prevent bullying in our school. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- School expectations and restorative posters displayed prominently in each classroom
- Adequate supervision of students during breaks, on playground ovals etc.
- Modelling of appropriate problem-solving, non-aggressive behaviours by adults in the school
- Formal Wellbeing lessons to be time-tabled into class programs across each year level
- School-wide participation in wellbeing awareness days, such as NDAAB, Harmony Day
- Using incursions and drama productions to help understand bullying and related issues
- Promotion of safety networks and reporting procedures, Kids Helpline and child friendly child safe and e-safety resources
- Signing a home-school DT Acceptable Use Agreement (refer to *Digital Technology Policy*)
- Procedures to ensure personal electronic devices are stored in the school office during school hours.

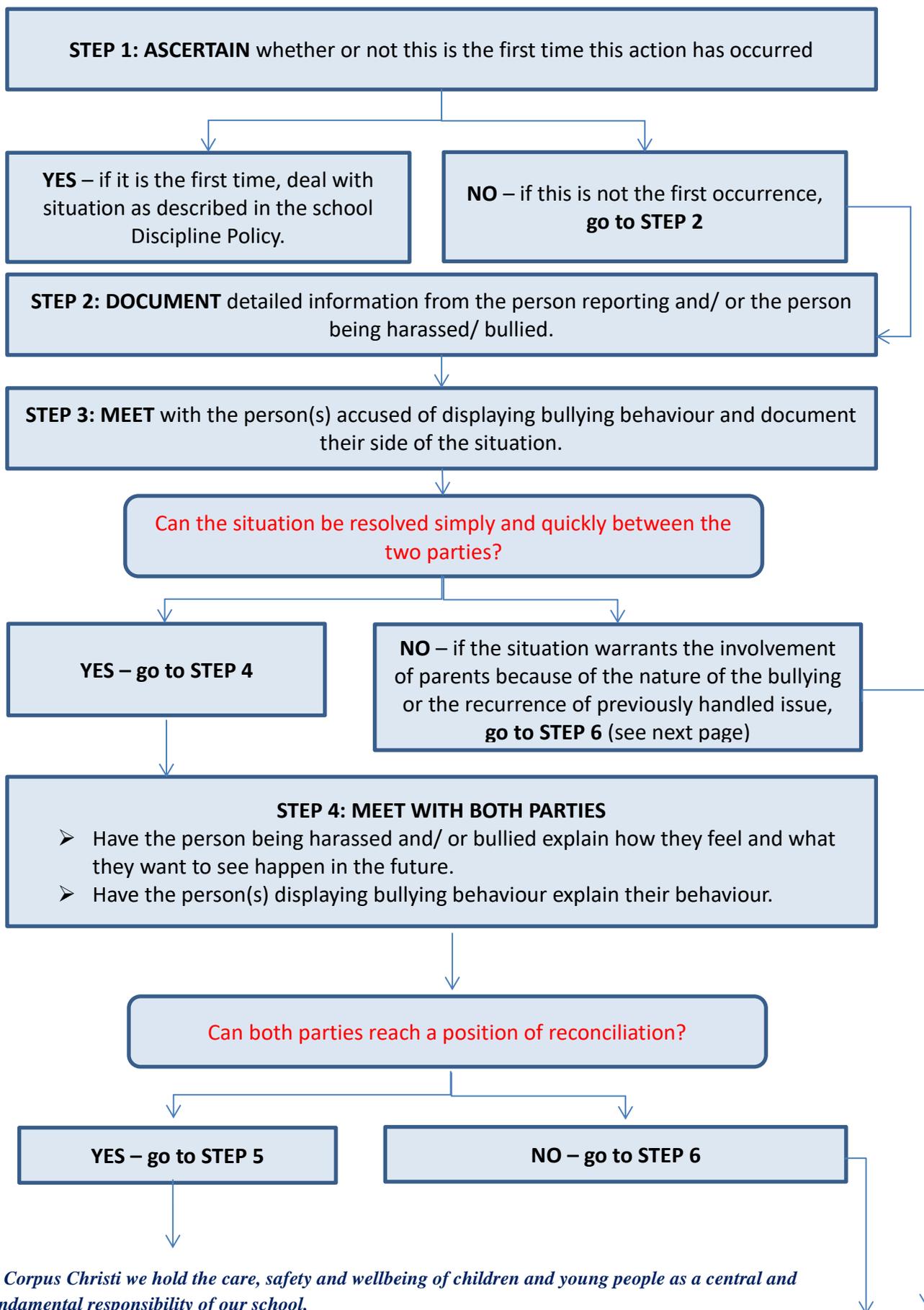
Implementation:

All cases of reported bullying, will be followed up. Members of the School community are encouraged to report bullying and can do so through a number of people, including their homegroup teacher, a member of the leadership team or the school principal.

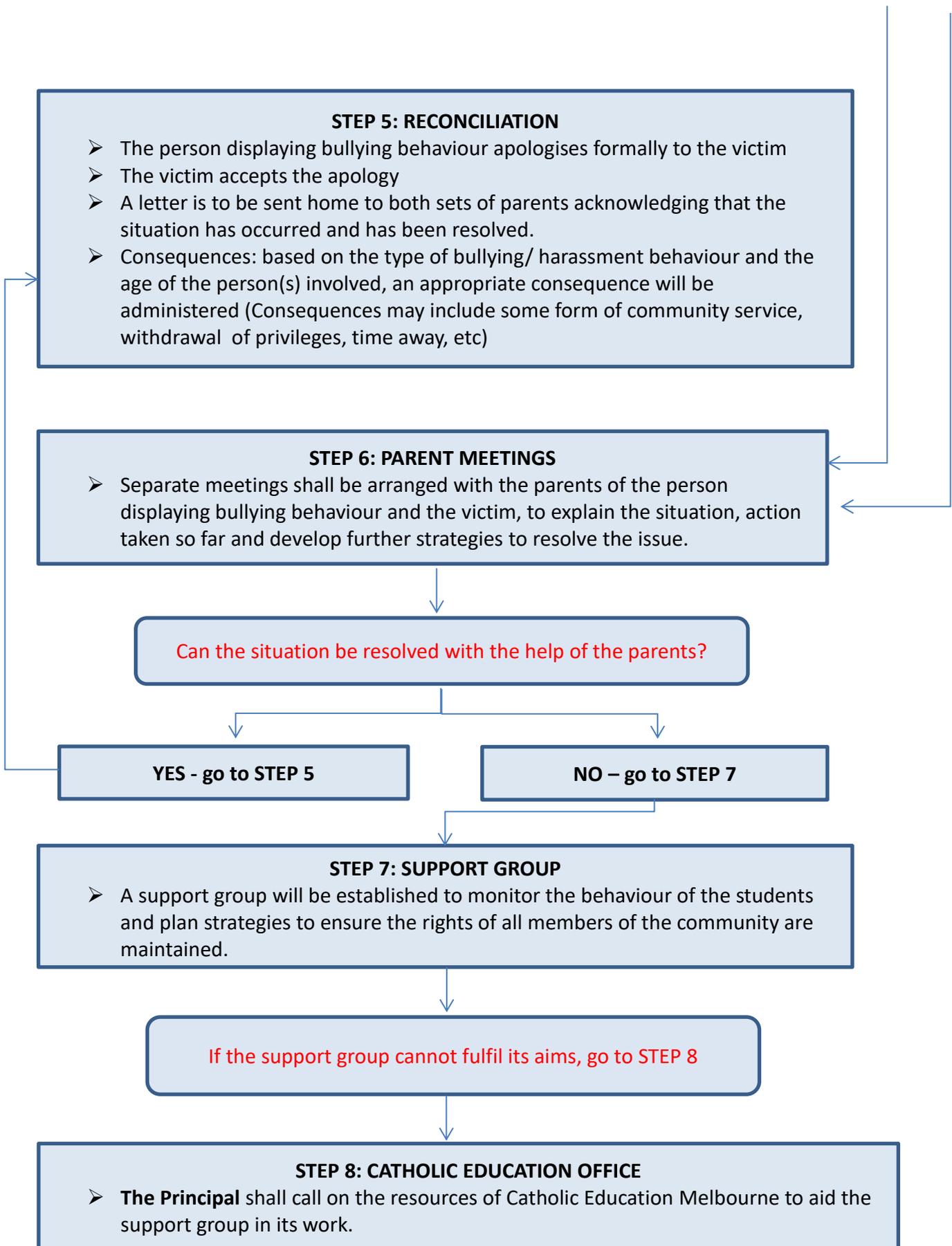
It is recognised, that each case is different and may require an individual approach. In all cases it is important to ensure that victims are believed and made safe, and that the principles of dignity and procedural fairness are followed in regard to students reported for bullying.

The following steps are to be followed when an act of bullying or harassment has been observed or reported:

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Related Policies:

- Student Wellbeing – Pastoral Care Policy
- Student Behaviour Policy
- Restorative Practice Policy
- Digital Technology Policy

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed annually at the conclusion of the school year and as part of the Schools 4 year review cycle by the Wellbeing Team or as deemed necessary.

Policy authorised by: Ms Linda Roynic, Principal

Date reviewed: 2020

Next review: 2024 or sooner if needed

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