

# Thomas More Christian Montessori School

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## B8.2 TCMC School Anti- Bullying Policy 2025

### Anti-Bullying

School bullying has been recognised as a serious problem in schools in Australia. In addition, bullying is becoming an increasingly important public policy issue, following concern about the negative effects of bullying on pupils' academic attainment and emotional well-being.

#### 1. Policy Statement

TMCM School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all students, free from bullying and harassment. The school strictly enforces a no-bullying policy and fosters a culture based on the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

#### 2. Definition of Bullying

Bullying at TMCM is defined as "mean-on-purpose" behaviour that:

- Is a repetitive attack causing distress, with the threat of future attacks.
- Involves an imbalance of power.
- Can take the following forms:
  - **Verbal:** Name-calling, put-downs, threats.
  - **Physical:** Hitting, tripping, poking, punching, kicking, throwing objects, stealing.
  - **Social:** Ignoring, hiding, ostracizing.
  - **Psychological:** Dirty looks, spreading rumors, hiding or damaging possessions.
  - **Digital Communication:** Cyberbullying via text messages, social media, or online platforms.

#### 3. Prevention and Education

- Regular classroom discussions reinforce the values, skills, and strategies needed to address bullying.
- TMCM students are expected to uphold the following rules:
  1. Respect for self, teachers, classmates, and school property.
  2. Express themselves with courtesy.
  3. Practice the Golden Rule in all interactions.
  4. Acknowledge that bullying is strictly prohibited.

5. Be ready to assist peers in need.

#### 4. Responsibilities

- The **Principal** is responsible for ensuring that allegations of bullying are addressed in accordance with the school's anti-bullying policy and procedures.
- **Teachers** must intervene immediately when bullying as defined above is alleged or witnessed by the teacher.
- **Students** are expected to treat others with kindness and respect, practicing self-governance and conflict resolution skills.
- **Parents/Carers** are encouraged to support school efforts in addressing and preventing bullying.

#### 5. Response to Bullying Incidents Procedure

- Teachers address bullying incidents (alleged or witnessed) immediately, reminding students of the school's no-bullying policy and the Golden Rule.
  - Communication is facilitated between the involved students to resolve the matter, with appropriate consequences and reparations assigned to the offending student.
  - The teacher reports the incident to the Principal, who may notify parents/carers if further action is necessary.
  - Procedures outlined in the School's Behaviour Management and Discipline Policies are followed.
  - If additional support is needed, parents are provided with contact information for Far South Coast Family Support Services (ph. 6492 3411).
  - School Liaison Police contacts:
    - **School Liaison Police** – SC Tim Morrow (ph. 6492 9999)
    - **Youth Liaison Officers** – Tony Xeureb or Donna Clark (ph. 4478-9925)
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