Rationale

To educate, inform and protect students from cyberbullying and promote a school culture where cyberbullying is unacceptable.

Guiding Principle

Marist College Kogarah is a centre of learning, of life, and of evangelising. As a school, it leads students “to learn to know, to be competent, to live together and most especially, and to grow as persons”. As a Catholic school, it is a community setting in which faith, hope and love are lived and communicated, and in which students are progressively initiated into their life-long challenge of harmonizing faith, culture and life. As a Catholic school in the Marist tradition, it adopts Marcellin’s approach to educating children and youth, in the way of Mary.

Our style of educating is based on a vision that is truly holistic, and that consciously seeks to communicate values. While we share such a vision with many, especially in Church circles, we use a distinctive pedagogical approach which Marcellin and the first Marists initiated and which was innovative in many of its aspects.

We share their intuition that as stated in the words of St Marcellin Champagnat “to bring up children properly, we must love them, and love them all equally”. From this principle, flow the particular characteristics of our style of educating: presence, simplicity, family spirit, love of work, and following the way of Mary. We seek to adopt these attitudes and values as our way of inculturating the Gospel. It is their sum and their interaction which gives our Marist style its Spirit-inspired originality.

The core foundation of Marist College Kogarah is to build positive relationships where there students feel a sense of comfort. When issues arise they are dealt with the notion of restorative practices to ensure that relationships are mended and students can work together within the community.

What is Cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies and mediums. It is also important to be aware that Cyberbullying can occur both during and after school hours. It includes but is not limited to parents, staff and students associated with the College. Cyberbullying can include, but is not limited to, the items listed below.

Email
Sending harassing, threatening and/ or menacing messages to targets either directly, anonymously or using another person’s address or alias.
**Instant Messaging (IM)** *(eg MSN Messenger, Yahoo and Bebo)*

Harassing and heated arguments (referred to as ‘flaming’) can occur and include obscene language in private chat rooms.

**Chat Rooms/Bash boards** *(Real time communication facilities)*

Can allow students to anonymously write anything (true or untrue) creating and adding cruel entries in a world wide forum.

**Short Text Messages (SMS)**

Masquerading as another by using their mobile phone or computer to send harassing or threatening messages.

**Websites/Social Networking sites** *(eg Facebook, Formspring)*

Mocking, teasing and harassing; voting online for the ‘ugliest’ or ‘fattest’ etc and posting visuals that can be altered (this can include sexually explicit material).

**POLICY IN ACTION**

Our aim is to deal with incidents of Cyberbullying in a firm, positive, caring and supportive manner. Intervention may occur in the following ways:

- A student may voluntarily approach a teacher or counsellor for assistance as they have become aware of or have engaged in Cyberbullying or related behaviour.

- A student may be identified as needing help as a result of involvement in an incident requiring disciplinary action.

- Staff may approach the College Executive or Counsellor about concerns relating to students engaging in or being the subject of cyberbullying.

- Any special programs which the College provides, eg Anti-bullying or Restorative Justice programs should be utilised here.

Cyberbullying is presented to students within our Pastoral Care programs. Guest speakers, police school liaison officers and drama performances are just some of the initiatives employed by the College to educate, inform and discuss with students the pitfalls of cyberbullying. Students are informed of being aware of their digital footprint.

At enrolment, all students must sign and adhere to the **Student Acceptable Use Agreement Form** (available to view on the College Website).

**Monitoring of student use** of school e-mail and internet facilities is a part of fulfilling our duty of care to students as well as ensuring compliance with the policy agreement.

College rules prohibit the inappropriate and threatening use of e-mail, internet and mobile phone facilities both in the College, at any College function and away from College where the behaviour seriously impacts on other students or staff at the College.
DEALING WITH BULLYING PROCEDURE

Step 1: Students:
Report your concern –
- Easiest to tell a friend
- Better to tell parents
- Best to tell a teacher – they can do the most about it.

Once an issue has been reported to teacher then teacher must respond immediately by discussing the issue with victim.

Step 2: Teacher/Year Co-ordinator: Interview with student believed to be responsible for bullying behaviour.

Year Co-ordinator should be informed and record all incidents on Sentral.

Teacher/Year Co-ordinator is to discuss the issue with both victim and bully. The focus is in restoring the relationship by focusing on specific behaviours, which was affected and how they were affected.

Assumption: Every boy has a right to have his inappropriate behaviour pointed out to him and a right to be heard and an opportunity to correct his behaviour.

Use of the College diary to inform parents.

Year Co-ordinator may engage the services of senior students to act as mentor for students experiencing bullying. Refer to the Student Behavioural Management Framework.

Step 3: Year Co-ordinator to follow up and monitor the situation.
Follow-up interview

Action: EITHER No further action

OR

1. Expression of concern with the student that he has not kept his deal in assisting the bullied boy as he said he would.
2. If appropriate, move to Step 2 of the Student Behavioural Management Framework.
3. Else, clarify expectations, and give the student a further opportunity to demonstrate goodwill.

Step 4: Further interview. Possible actions include:

→ No further action – matter resolved
→ Detention
→ Parent Contact
→ Interview with parents
→ Monitoring starting at Step 3 of Student Behavioural Management Framework.

Step 5: If no change in bullying behaviour and issues are continuing

→ Monitoring at Step 4 of Student Behavioural Management Framework.
→ Parental Interview with Principal and Assistant Principal.

A range of actions are available, depending on individual circumstances. These include:
• No disciplinary action required
• Parental contact
• Student(s) put on a contract
• Student(s) required to undergo counselling
• Penalty work and/detention
• Suspension
• Transfer
• Expulsion

In cases where there is a threat made towards someone’s life, criminal activity, sexual assault or overt sexual content within any technology, then the police and community services may be contacted.

The following support services contact numbers are also provided to assist with bullying:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support Agencies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CatholicCare</td>
<td>9390 5377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St George Mental Health Service</td>
<td>8198 7300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)</td>
<td>9553 2525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Intensive Care and Assessment Team</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Child, Youth and Family Team (referral number)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- After hours – <strong>Acute Care Team</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canterbury Community Mental Health Service</td>
<td>9787 0600</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Business hours</td>
<td>9767 5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- After hours</td>
<td>9585 7222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Family and Community Services, St George</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(formerly DoCS)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>DoCS Helpline</td>
<td>13 21 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- General Public</td>
<td>13 36 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mandatory Reporters</td>
<td>13 11 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifeline</td>
<td>1800 551 800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kids Helpline</td>
<td>1300 1300 52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parentline</td>
<td>1800 011 511</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental Health Access Line</td>
<td>1800 656 463</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence Line</td>
<td>1800 234 566</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homeless Persons Line</td>
<td>1300 363 622</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salvation Army Care Line</td>
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Further advice is available from the College Counsellor (9587 3211).
**Cybersafety**

The following are some basic tips in order to be Cyber smart:

1) No sexually suggestive photos, videos or nicknames
2) No surnames
3) Do not mention your school or sporting clubs you may be involved with.
4) Set your profile to private

The following are some sites that may help both parents and students to make good choices to keep you Cyber safe:

www.cybersmart.gov.au  
www.hectorsworld.com.au  
www.acma.gov.au/cybersafety  
www.netalert.gov.au  
www.bullyingnoway.com.au  
www.kidshelp.com.au