

## **STOPPING BULLYING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY**

At Bethlehem College we are committed to helping grow students into mature, young people who will contribute and give leadership into society in a Christ-like way when they graduate. One of the challenging aspects of this is that we have 1500 children and young people, altogether for a number of years, all trying to learn the same thing at the same time - how to relate positively and pleasantly to one another.

At Bethlehem College, as in any other school in New Zealand, these relationship struggles will at times lead to some bullying behaviour. However, not all difficulties these students have in relating to one another are necessarily "bullying". They could be examples of students learning how to relate to one another as they change and develop.

Bullying is where a person(s) intentionally causes hurt to another person on an ongoing basis. The bullying can be physical, or with words, e.g. teasing or threatening. Bullying can also be through text messaging or the internet.

Throughout a student's life at Bethlehem College there will be various ways in which they are taught about what bullying behaviour is and that we want, with their help, to make this a "Bully Free School". Students will be encouraged to be active themselves in stopping bullying behaviour by other students.

As parents we need to listen carefully to our children's concerns about their experience of school. If your child is experiencing bullying then please take action to let the school know. The diagram below will give you options of who to contact.

We will then seek to resolve the issues between students and restore their relationship while seeking to grow their understanding of themselves at the same time.

As students get older they tend to think that "no-one can do anything about this" or "staff intervening or parents getting involved will make it worse". We need to encourage them that bullying behaviour is not acceptable but will continue if nothing is done about it. Having reported the behaviour, if it reoccurs later it needs to be reported again and the school will again work with the individuals involved to help them understand that this behaviour is unacceptable to the school community.

## BETHLEHEM COLLEGE BULLYING REPORTING PROCEDURES

