

Florida Christian School Bullying Policy

I. PURPOSE

The Florida Christian School of Miami-Dade County Inc. (the School) recognizes that a safe and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. The School finds that bullying, like other disruptive or violent behavior, is conduct that disrupts both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe environment. Additionally, as a Christian School, FCS seeks to promote behavior and attitudes acceptable to God. (II Timothy 1:7)

II. DEFINITIONS

A. "Bullying" means systematic, repeated, or recurrent conduct committed by a student or group of students against another student that serves as the greatest sole cause of a student's measureable physical harm or emotional distress accompanied by physical manifestations. Purely verbal expression, whether oral, written, or electronic, may only be considered "bullying" provided that it otherwise meets the definition of bullying and; or:

1. Such expression is lewd, indecent, obscene, advocating for illegal conduct, likely to incite an immediate breach of peace, or the severe pervasive use of threatening words that objectively inflict injury; or
2. School administrators reasonably and objectively determine that such expression will cause a substantial and material disruption of schoolwork.

B. "School Premises" means any building, structure, athletic field, sports facility, or other real property owned, operated, leased, or rented by the School.

C. "School-Sponsored Functions or Activities" means a field trip, sports event, or any other function sponsored by the School.

D. "School-Sponsored Transportation" means a motor vehicle owned, operated, leased, rented, or subcontracted by the School.

III. PROHIBITION

The School prohibits all bullying on school premises, at school-sponsored functions or activities, or while students are being transported by any means of transportation provided or supported by the School.

IV. REPORTING

Any student who believes he or she has been or is currently the victim of bullying may report the situation to the school headmaster, principals, or assistant principal. The student may also

report concerns to the dean, guidance counselor or a teacher who shall notify school administration.

School officials are not required to investigate a report if made anonymously unless good cause is shown or stated for filing anonymously or the school officials have good reason to believe that a student may be at imminent risk of physical harm.

Students and staff may also report any situation that they observe and believe to be bullying Behavior directed toward a student. Reports may be made to those identified above.

After a report is made, the school Headmaster, principals, assistant principals, deans, guidance counselor or teacher may initiate initial inquiries of the parties and witnesses to gather facts and information to determine if further investigation is warranted.

If after initial inquiries a report of bullying is determined by the Headmaster or designee to warrant further investigation, the investigation will be conducted in accordance with the requirement of parental notification set out in subsection VI below. If the investigation results in a determination that bullying has occurred, prompt and appropriate action shall be taken.

V. INTENTIONALLY FALSE REPORTS

Making intentionally false reports about bullying is prohibited and is subject to discipline.

VI. PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

If after initial inquiries a report of bullying is determined by the Headmaster or designee to warrant further investigation, before any student is further and formally interviewed, his or her parents shall be notified by the principal, or assistant principal of the allegations made, and shall have the opportunity to attend any interviews with their child conducted as part of the investigation.

VII. INTERPRETATION & APPLICATION

A. This policy shall not be interpreted to infringe upon the First Amendment rights of students, and is not intended to prohibit expression of religious, philosophical, or political views.

B. It shall be presumed that all verbal expression, whether oral, written, or electronic, relating to religious, philosophical, or political topics or viewpoints is protected by the first Amendment and shall not be classified as "bullying" under this policy unless specific facts demonstrate otherwise.

C. This section does not impede or preclude a student, the student's parents or school officials from directly reporting to law enforcement officials any behavior that constitutes a violation of criminal law.

VIII. POSTING

Copies of this policy shall be provided to all employees, students and parents, and it shall be posted electronically on the School's website.