It’s up to all of us

‘All members of the St Maroun’s College community have the right to enjoy a safe and happy school environment where cooperation and positive interactions are encouraged and people are valued and respected.’
What is bullying?

Bullying is repeated and systematic hurting of another person by an individual or group. The intention of bullying is purposeful rather than incidental and is a continual act.

Bullying can take many forms. Some examples:

Physical
• Hitting, kicking, punching, pushing, rude gestures
• Taking / damaging belongings
• Forcing others to do something they don’t want to do

Verbal
• Name calling
• Threatening
• Making fun of others
• Repeated teasing

What is rough play?

Rough Play refers to games that become physical and can sometimes result in unintentional injuries.

Examples:

Physical
• Tips becoming hard pushes
• Touch footy becoming grabbing and holding

What’s the Difference?

The response to bullying must be quite different from the response to rough play, because consequences need to respond to intentions. Bullying requires mediation while rough play requires modification. As children learn about boundaries, play can become rough. This is very different from bullying, which is intentional and designed to cause harm.
Our Commitment

At St Maroun’s College we believe that we are all unique, created in the image of God and are challenged to love one another as God loves us.

Let us live the Gospel through our words and actions so that we can Live Justly, Love Tenderly and Walk Humbly with our God.

As partners in Catholic education, we are committed to work with you, the parents, to ensure the most positive outcome for your child and our school community. It is our expectation that parents will support us in promoting our school values.

Our Expectations

Bullying is not tolerated by this community and contradicts our school motto of Friendship, Faith and Honesty.

Our Gospel values are:

Love
Peace
Compassion
Justice
Empathy
Tolerance
Respect
Honesty
Parent Expectations

If you have any concerns about your child’s interactions with others, the following strategies NEED to be followed:

1. Talk to your child
   - Continue to monitor

2. Talk to your child’s classroom teacher or year coordinator
   - Continue to monitor

3. Talk to the Principal/Assistant Principal
   - Continue to monitor

At St Maroun’s College, we believe every child deserves to be nurtured, valued and cared for in all circumstances of life. It is the shared responsibility of all members of the school community, in partnership with parents.
Do Not:

1. *DO NOT* confront the child involved.
2. *DO NOT* confront the child’s parents.
3. *DO NOT* discuss the issue with parents who are not involved, in order to protect your child and all the children in the school community.

Student Expectations

*(an explanation for parents)*

At St Maroun’s College, we aim to assist children in developing the resilience needed to be able to manage situations that may arise due to the normal but unpleasant social interactions between students, and also during times of distress because of the behaviours of others.

While the strategies described for students are a snapshot of the messages given to children at school, it is important to note that each child’s situation is approached with individual consideration and with sensitivity.

Everyone has a right to feel safe and happy at school. It is important to remember that we are working with children who need our guidance and support. It is also important not to label children, but to work actively to enable them to develop appropriate social skills.
Student Expectations
(You CAN control what happens!)

YOU have to decide what action to take.

Step 1
Ignore it. If it does not stop:

Step 2
Talk to the person bullying. Tell her or him in a firm, clear voice that the actions are unwanted. It might stop them. If the bullying continues:

Step 3
Inform the bully that you will be speaking to someone about the bullying.

Step 4
Go to a teacher and report what has happened. They can help you decide what to do. If the bullying still doesn’t stop:

Step 5
Go to the Assistant Principal or Principal about your concern.

It is RIGHT to report bullying!

Think about what you SAY and DO!

At St Maroun’s College, we care for everyone and treat each other with respect.

Are you are getting into trouble because of the way you SPEAK and ACT?

Do others perceive you as a bully? If so, you might try asking yourself some of these questions.

• What is the problem I have with this person/group?
• Why am I treating this person this way?
• What can I do next time someone makes me feel like this?
• Have I made a mistake? What can I do to fix it?
• Why isn’t my behaviour acceptable?
• Am I acting alone or am I following a group?
Teacher Expectations

Teachers will respond to any issue of bullying and/or rough play that becomes apparent or is reported.

The classroom and playground procedure is as follows:

Step 1:
- Students are made aware of their behaviour.
- Students are given reminders to improve their behaviour.
- Students are given reflective time/own space to de-escalate and process own feelings and emotions.
- Students are given opportunity to write and/or discuss as a mode of reflecting on their own behaviour (mediation approach).

If behaviour continues ...

Step 2:
Report the behaviour to a senior member of staff via a Coordinator Referral Form. Students lose play time and are monitored by an executive staff member or the Assistant Principal.

If behaviour continues ...

Step 3:
Coordinators set up a process of restorative justice. The situation is monitored by stakeholders.

Process repeated if necessary

Step 4:
If a student’s inappropriate behaviour continues, parents are called to discuss their child’s behaviour.

Step 5:
Repeated bullying behaviours may ultimately result in a withdrawn enrolment.
It’s up to ALL of us!