



## **Fostering Positive Relationships**

One of the primary goals of Hamilton Boys' High School is to develop an environment where positive relationships are fostered between boys and their peers school-wide. The school believes that developing positive social and interpersonal skills is a critical component in the development of our boys. This ethos is embedded within the schools crest; 'The Sash' – meaning and purpose ▪ Love and Commitment ▪ Service and Community.

The school fosters positive relationships in many and varied contexts, and the message of its importance is imparted consistently and regularly by staff, and in the schools functioning day to day. Boys develop an understanding of peer relationships, group dynamics, moral development and empathy for others. This is not only within the school environment, but in our wider community and the world around the school.

### **What is bullying?**

Bullying is where an individual or group undertakes to hurt, threaten, harass, frighten or make someone feel uncomfortable. It can be a single incident or occur more systematically over time.

#### Bullying can be:

- Verbal – threats, name calling, sniggering, humiliation, spreading rumours, abuse, embarrassing comments
- Physical – hitting, tripping, pushing, kicking, punching, throwing items at another
- Social – ignoring, isolating, excluding, texting/internet and rejecting in a manner which is malicious
- Emotional – stalking, cruel mimicry, teasing, body gestures, holding or damaging other people's property

### **Bullying behaviour is not tolerated at Hamilton Boys' High School**

All students and staff at HBHS have a right to be safe from any form of physical or emotional harm and harassment, and from any form of vilification. The school works very hard to maintain an harmonious, safe and all inclusive atmosphere, where everyone is valued. We make clear to the student body that it is the absolute responsibility of each boy to ensure that their rights and those of others are not impinged upon.

### **Pathways**

Silence and secrecy are not condoned on the issue of bullying. Nor is unnecessary delay in action or inaction. Any of the above will only encourage a continuance of the bullying behaviour. All staff takes the issue of bullying very seriously at Hamilton Boys' High School.

We encourage all students who are either victims of bullying, witnesses to bullying or are engaging in bullying to come forward to seek help and assistance immediately.

#### They are encouraged to undertake one or more of the following:

- Talk to friends or family about what is happening
- Talk to the Guidance counsellors
- Talk to their tutor teacher
- Talk to any of their classroom teachers, or any teacher they feel most comfortable informing
- Talk to their year level Dean
- Approach a Senior Prefect or S.A.F.E leader seeking their support in coming forward to seek staff assistance
- Spend post-incident time in the S.A.F.E room in B.4 at interval/lunchtime

**Hamilton Boys' High School has a strong belief and commitment to the fostering of positive relationships. The school views bullying as an act which directly undermines this objective and is committed to crafting an environment in which any incidents of bullying are dealt with firmly, quickly and effectively.**