

# **St. Mary's School**

## **Bullying Policy**

### **2011-2012**

St. Mary's School is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for all students, employees, and volunteers free from harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyberbullying.

The Administration of St. Mary's School recognizes that bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, detracts from the safe Christian environment necessary for students learning, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, the Administration prohibits bullying by St. Mary's students, parents, and all adults employed by St. Mary's School.

**Bullying** is a form of violence. Unlike fighting which is easily observed, bullying is frequently less visible to the adults in charge. However, bullying does erode discipline and students and staff morale.

**Bullying** means an electronic, written, verbal or physical act or a series of acts directed at another student, students, or staff members, which occurs in a school setting.

**School Setting** means in the school, on the school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop, or at any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the school.

**Bullying** that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:

- Substantial interference with a student's education.
- Creation of a threatening environment.
- Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.
- Casting a student, staff member, volunteers in such a light as to subject them to torment, ridicule, or shame.

The term **cyber-bullying** shall mean any harassment, intimidation or bullying when such is accomplished utilizing electronic communication media. Such media includes, but shall not be limited to, email messages, text messages, instant messages, social networking sites; internet based video sites, and postings on blogs.

## **Consequences for Violators**

A student who is considered bullying another student shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action which may include:

- Counseling
- Parental conference
- Loss of school privileges
- Transfer to another school
- Exclusion from school sponsored activities
- Detention
- Suspension
- Expulsion
- Referral to law enforcement officer
- Disciplinary action will be decided by the Pastor and Principal.