



## **PRESENTATION B.V.M.'S ANTIBULLYING PROGRAM**



The Presentation B.V.M. School Administration and Faculty strive to create a caring school environment and teach life skill strategies to build self-esteem. We emphasize a positive environment that promotes learning, the value of oneself, and the worth of others in light of the Gospel message of Jesus.

Our program against bullying is based on the research done by Dan Olweus. He found that bullying is an underlying issue among students of all ages. He said that bullying is behavior that is intended to harm or cause stress, is repeated over time, and is an imbalance of power or strength among the parties. This imbalance of power may be physical or psychological. Bullying may be physical (hitting, shoving), verbal (name-calling, threats), or psychological (excluding, manipulating friendships). Bullying is distinguished from other kinds of conflict between children in a number of ways, but most obviously by:

1. the repetitive nature of bullying (it isn't a one-time event)
2. the power imbalance between the children

Our program at Presentation School is designed to:

1. reduce the frequency of bullying incidents
2. increase the self esteem of our students
3. empower our students to stand up to bullies
4. encourage our students to come to the aid of those being bullied

The Antibullying Program in our school is implemented through classroom meetings, student education, positive reminders and environment, and written parent notifications.

The teacher is the facilitator of a classroom meeting. Various topics, grounded in the tenets of our Catholic faith, focus on the importance of community building, the uniqueness of the individual, and the ability to make good choices. The meetings are held bi-monthly.

Classroom rules are posted and students are guided to express themselves in a respectful way. Various social topics and incidences that may be of concern are discussed. Each faculty member completes a classroom meeting log that states the meeting topic and any issue that should be monitored.

Younger students are taught the basics of the program during these meetings. The development of interventional procedures for both the protection of the bully targets, and the reinforcement of positive social interaction strategies for the bullies themselves, is stressed throughout all the grades.

Posters and bulletin boards throughout the school serve as reminders for our children and highlight a positive atmosphere. During the school year various grades write essays, create posters, and complete projects focusing on acceptance.

Our antibullying program is a school-wide effort. It is systems and individual oriented, preventive, and problem solving. It focuses on changing norms and behavior. It is research based and not time limited. The program is constantly evolving and requires continual reevaluation and revision over time.

We at Presentation B.V.M. School want to reflect an environment characterized by warmth and respect for others, with a compassionate staff that promotes our values and does not accept intolerance in any form.