SAFE SCHOOL STATEMENT

What is bullying?
Bullying is any conscious behaviour intended to hurt another person, either verbally, physically or emotionally. Bullying may take many forms and can include:
- making hurtful and racial comments
- commenting on social/family backgrounds
- picking on others
- unwanted touching, hitting, (refer also JT ‘Hands Off’ Policy) teasing and mocking
- spreading rumours
- intimidation, threaten or belittle
- deliberately excluding
- taking or damaging property
- sending hurtful notes
- cyber bullying.

Bullying is a serious issue
Bullying is not “OK”.
As a student of John Therry Catholic High School it is not only your right, but your responsibility to report bullying to a teacher, whether it happens to you or to someone else. Your silence says that bullying is tolerated.

Who are the bullies?
Anyone can be a bully - all of us. We all have the capacity and, occasionally the inclination to be hurtful.
Any person who aims to hurt someone else by causing either verbal, physical or emotional pain is a bully. Some bullies do the hurting themselves, some are ringleaders and some are members of a group. Others unintentionally encourage bullies by watching when bullying occurs and failing to intervene or report the bullying.

What can you do if you are a witness to Bullying?
We need to work together if we are to have a safe school.
- We all care enough to want to do something
- If possible, you could intervene as the bullying occurs by simply saying “stop it” or “leave him / her alone”.
- If you cannot act immediately, you should report the incident to a member of staff as soon as you can. You may need to establish that you want privacy and confidentiality. You may wish to make an anonymous report that will alert staff to a trouble spot, a bully or a victim.
- Offer friendship and support to the victim. Make suggestions about handling it. Encourage the victim to get help from a member of staff or their family.
- You can report bullying online on the School website. Just click on the ‘Student Links’ tab and scroll down to the red ‘Report Bullying’ box. Fill in the required details and this will be sent to the Pastoral Coordinators who will follow this up for you.
- You can also receive EYmsafety help and advice by clicking the red ‘EYmsafety help’ button located on the School Website.

We do not tolerate Bullying at John Therry Catholic High School
The School:
- expects a high standard of respectful behaviour at all times
- is committed to striving to provide a safe and caring environment for everyone, where the right of every person to be free from all forms of bullying is observed
- encourages and positively reinforces right relationships, i.e. behaviour which is courteous and considerate
- is educating the students about issues related to bullying behaviour and safe school practices
- offers support to all students through our pastoral care system and the pastoral care role of all teachers.

Cyber Bullying:
The use of email, text messages, internet, mobile phones and other technological devices to transmit offensive messages or to harass another student are strictly banned. Students who breach this policy may be referred to outside organisations such as the Police.