Dear Parents, Caregivers, Students and Friends of our College.

Bullying – Zero tolerance
There are lots of great things happening here at O’Loughlin and news about some of them can be found in other parts of this Newsletter. But here I want to say something about BULLYING. If you want to know what I have to say, please read on!

Bullying and harassment happens in virtually every school and workplace. It is a terrible reflection on some aspects of our society. Regrettably, bullying happens sometimes here at O’Loughlin as well.

What is Bullying and Harassment? A widely accepted definition describes them this way:

“Harassment, including sexual harassment and bullying, is the exertion of power by one person over another which makes the other person feel embarrassed, deliberately excluded, offended, upset, devalued, degraded, frustrated or angry. It is behavior that is unwelcome, unreciprocated, uninvited and usually repeated. It is behavior that breaches proper and acceptable conduct.”

Everyone has the basic human right to be treated with dignity and respect, free from any form of discrimination of any kind (harassment and bullying are forms of discrimination), such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Any behaviour that detracts from this right is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action being taken by the school against the perpetrator. Bullying can be subtle or overt – either way, it is not acceptable and is not how we want our students to treat each other. Harassment or bullying is not just physical or verbal; it can also be done through social media such as texting or derogatory messages on Facebook or the like.

Penalties for harassment or bullying here at O’Loughlin will result in possible suspension or if it is severe or ongoing – then expulsion will be considered.

Bullying and/or harassment needs to be reported to us immediately. We will follow it up as soon as possible and it may include asking the parent/carer to come to the school to talk about what is happening and what needs to happen to make sure it doesn’t continue.
I appeal to our parent community to work with us in promoting right behaviour among our students and support us if we need to impose penalties on those who breach our expectation that everyone be treated with dignity and respect. Thank you for your support in this matter.

God bless.

Jim Jolley
Principal