



Cleveland District State High School Anti-Harassment Policy

By definition harassment is an act of aggression – physical, verbal, written, or cyber which causes embarrassment, pain or discomfort to another. Bullying usually involves an abuse of power by an individual or a group. By definition harassment is any behaviour which is not invited and not welcomed. It may occur because of a person's race, age, disability, sexuality, religious beliefs or other issues

Harassment is a breach of school philosophy and policies and sometimes can be a crime as well. We are committed to preventing harassment at our school. Do not keep harassment a secret; let someone else know about it so that you can have assistance in making it stop. Students can be given disciplinary consequences for harassment and this can be at any level including suspension and recommendation for exclusion

Being Harassed

When we are harassed we may feel angry, embarrassed, frightened, humiliated or uncomfortable.

We believe

- You have the right to be treated as a worthwhile, important individual.
- You have the right to come to school feeling happy, secure and comfortable.
- People who harass other people are stopping them from getting as much out of school as they should. Students who are harassed find that it interferes with their learning.
- We want to make Cleveland District State High School a safe and supportive place for all those who attend. We also want students who attend to have equal rights to get the most out of their schooling.

Kinds of Harassment:

Sexual Harassment

This is against State Law and the policies of Education Queensland and the school. Sexual Harassment is when someone (for example):

- Touches or brushes up against you, often and deliberately, when you do not want them to.
- Repeatedly calls you rude names or makes suggestive comments.
- Comments on the size or shape of your body.
- Pestors you to go out with them or asks you to do things you don't want to do.
- Spreads rumours about your private life.
- Leaves sexual comments and drawings where you will see them.

Other Harassment

Harassment is when someone (for example):

- Gets a gang (or group) together to frighten you.
- Calls you names or runs you down.
- Hides or destroys your property.
- Threatens you face to face or via notes, SMS, TXT, MSM or other sites on the internet.

- Hits, punches or pushes you.
- Writes rude or unpleasant notes about you.
- Annoys you (or your parents) by making nasty telephone calls.
- Calls you names or spreads rumours on the internet for example MSM, Facebook, Bebo, My Space and so on.

There are many ways that you can be harassed, these are only some examples.

**Are you being harassed?
There IS something you can do about it ...**

What can I do about Harassment?

You have to decide what you want to do. Here are some courses of action you can take:

- Tell the person (or people) harassing you that you don't like it and that you want it to stop.
- Talk it over with friends, or parents.
- See one of the School's Harassment Referral Officers who will advise you on courses of action in confidence.
- Ask for help from your homegroup teacher, Year Coordinator or any other teacher you feel comfortable with.
- Talk with the Youth Support Coordinator, Chaplains, School Based Youth Health Nurse or Police Officer.
- See a member of the Administration.

What will happen if I go to one of the Referral Officers?

- The teacher will listen to you sympathetically and keep what you say private.
- Together, you will work out the best way to handle the situation.
- If you decide not to go any further, this is all right.
- If you decide that you want more to be done about it, this is also all right and the Referral Officer will advise and support you on courses of action.

If you are not being harassed but are aware of other students who have problems in this area do something about it. Speak to the harasser but do not threaten them. Report it to a teacher or other staff member. If we all work together on this problem, we will have a better and happier school.

Referral Officers

The following teachers are Referral Officers who will help you should you wish to discuss harassment:

Mrs Pohlner	Student Support Unit
Ms Ingram	Student Support Unit
Mrs Hopper	Administration
Mrs Newitt	Home Economics Staffroom