



Father John V. Doyle School

Accredited by New England Association of Schools and Colleges

Information Regarding the Application of the Rhode Island Statewide Bullying Policy

Dear Father John V. Doyle School Families,

In an effort to continue to support our mission of providing a solid, well-rounded Catholic education in a safe, nurturing environment, please review the following updated policies regarding bullying prevention and investigation protocols at Father Doyle School.

Please note that Father John V. Doyle School utilizes the framework of the [Rhode Island Statewide Bullying Policy](#) to guide our response to bullying concerns. **In order for this policy to be implemented effectively, parents/guardians, staff, or students who are seeking to report an act of bullying must complete a [Bullying Report Form](#).** More than just a procedural step, this report allows the school to ensure that any and all acts of bullying are appropriately documented and detailed for the purposes of investigation. In addition, the report includes important permissions that impact the way an investigation is conducted. Bullying Report Forms can be submitted in hard copy or via email. Reports in which an individual wishes to remain anonymous can also be filed; however, anonymous reporting alone may not result in disciplinary action.

In accordance with the Rhode Island Statewide Bullying Policy, once a Bullying Report Form is signed and submitted to the principal, the parents/guardians of the alleged victim and the parents/guardians of the alleged perpetrator of the bullying will be notified by the principal *within twenty-four hours of the Bullying Report Form being submitted* (see page 3 of the Statewide Policy).

As a means of oversight, filed Bullying Report Forms and investigation reports will be submitted to the Superintendent of Catholic Schools twice annually in December and May. In the event that a superintendent is not appointed, reports will be submitted to the Catholic Schools Office for review by the Vicar General and/or Acting Superintendent.

Again in accordance with the Statewide Bullying Policy, once a Bullying Report Form is signed and submitted and parents/guardians have been appropriately notified, the principal or his or her designee will investigate the allegations. This may include any of the following: interviews with the alleged victim, alleged perpetrator, staff, potential student witnesses, as well as consultation with the Pastor.

Each allegation or instance of bullying is unique and requires an appropriate response based on the particulars of the given situation. With this in mind, disciplinary actions and consequences must be responsive to the particulars of an investigation.



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In addition, please note that, due to confidentiality and out of respect for all individuals involved, **the school does not discuss particular disciplinary actions taken against students as a result of an investigation with other students, families, or members of the school community.**

With that being said, in an effort to maintain transparency, and in the interest of clarity, Father Doyle School will utilize the following tiered system of disciplinary measures when an investigation finds that bullying is occurring or has occurred:

Tier I

Should an investigation find grounds for disciplinary action within Tier I, some or all of the following actions will be taken by the school:

- Verbal warning
- Teacher/principal conference with the student
- Principal conference with parent(s)/guardian(s) and student
- Lunch and/or recess detention

Tier II

Should an investigation find grounds for disciplinary action within Tier II, *in addition to Tier I measures*, some or all of the following actions will be taken by the school:

- Referral to school counseling services
- Detention served after school
- In-school suspension
- Loss of opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities
- Loss of opportunity to participate in school social activities and events
- Student placed on defined behavior plan

Tier III

Should an investigation find grounds for disciplinary action within Tier III, *in addition to Tier I & II measures*, some or all of the following actions will be taken by the school:

- Out-of-school suspension
- Dismissal from the school¹

¹ In accordance with the [Parent-Student Handbook](#), questions regarding the continuing enrollment of students in Catholic schools are decided by the pastor of the parish and/or the principal of the school, while carefully observing the policies of the Diocese of Providence and the requirements of the Code of Canon Law. In disputed cases, the final decision about the admission or continuing enrollment of students in Catholic schools will be made by the pastor and/or principal after the parties have attempted to resolve the dispute through a process of thoughtful dialogue. The Catholic Schools Office at the Diocese of Providence is involved in this consultation.



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Considerations when determining the tier of consequences applied in a particular incident include:

- ❖ Severity of bullying (i.e. verbal, physical, intensity, frequency, etc.)
- ❖ Repetition of offenses (i.e. if student has multiple confirmed incidents of bullying)
- ❖ Assessment of school psychologist (as applicable)
- ❖ Additional factors considered at the discretion of the administration

The determination of the tier applied to a bullying incident is made by the administration in consultation with faculty and staff involved in the incident after investigation and is based upon the factors noted above.

Thank you for reviewing the above policies. If you have any questions regarding the information enclosed, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Kevin Peloquin
Principal