POLICY: AGAINST BULLYING

1 Rationale
Bullying is any form of physical, mental, verbal or psychological intimidation and harassment directed by a person or group of people towards another person or group of people. A person or a group of people who engage in bullying tactics usually do so on a regular basis. St Michael’s does not tolerate bullying in any form, therefore all members of the school community are committed to ensuring that a safe and caring environment is evident at all times. The St Michael’s community supports the premise that self worth and self esteem flourish where individuals feel safe and happy.

2 Aims
2.1 To provide a safe and pleasant environment for all children, staff and parents who are part of the school community.
2.2 To provide support and empathy for children who do encounter bullying, whether physical, verbal, emotional or psychological.
2.3 To provide guidance for children who resort to bullying tactics in their day to day dealings with other children.
2.4 To provide children, staff and parents with guidelines to follow if they find themselves in a situation where they feel intimidated.

3 Implementation
3.1 Provide children, staff and parents, with an understanding of what bullying involves.
3.2 Inform and educate parents on the tactics they can adopt in day to day details of parenting which preclude bullying and build resilience.
3.3 Through class, grade and whole school meetings to alert children and their parents as to what constitutes unacceptable behaviour.
3.4 Through education, for children to understand that bullying does not always involve hitting, punching, biting or deliberately tripping it also involves name calling, exclusion from games and swearing.
3.5 The policy of bullying prevention to be regularly explained to children, staff and parents.
3.6 The anti bullying stance adopted by the school to be understood and supported by children, staff and parents.
3.7 The behaviour management form to be utilised as appropriate.
3.8 Through communication for children, staff and parents to have a similar understanding of what bullying implies and what strategies are used to prevent it.
3.9 For staff and parents to be aware that bullying often begins in the home.
3.10 For the Policy to be communicated in a written form to the school community.
3.11 The policy developed by UWS to be implemented and evaluated.
3.12 If episodes of bullying occurs, ongoing support and mentoring is to be provided to the child as how to handle the situation. Parents are to be kept informed and involved.

4 Evaluation
For the policy to be reviewed annually by children, staff and parents.