

WHAT IS MEANNESS & BULLYING?

At St Francis Xavier, we strive to be a school where **everyone is valued, respected, safe and can learn**. For this reason, we cannot tolerate any form of meanness, bullying, harassment, aggression or violence.

These behaviours may take the form of spoken, written or even electronic/cyber actions. They include behaviours that may be:

- verbal (put-downs or threats)
- physical (hitting, tripping, punching or stealing)
- social (ignoring, hiding or ostracizing)
- psychological (threatening looks, spreading rumours, damaging possessions or stalking)

Meanness and Bullying will be dealt with as a behaviour that is deliberate, aggressive and unsafe to others.



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

CONFLICT

Disagreement

Both involved - equal power
Both feel sorry afterwards

MEANNESS

Intent to hurt others

On purpose but not ongoing
Equal power

BULLYING

Physical/Emotional Harm

On purpose, targeted & ongoing
Misuse of power

We encourage students who feel they are being bullied or who know someone is getting bullied to talk to a teacher or someone else they trust. We encourage our students to speak up against bullying.