

## **Saint Francis of Assisi Mission Statement**

*We are a Catholic community of faith striving to follow Jesus, pledging each day to do our best by imitating St. Francis of Assisi as “instruments of peace.” Our goal is to maintain a **safe and healthy environment** and to be academically prepared for this technological age.*

Our “Bullying Policy” is one component that stems from our mission statement- “safe and healthy environment ...”

Here is our policy:

- **A bully is a person who repeatedly and over time exposes another person to negative actions. A bullying action is considered to increase if the person has been asked to stop and continues the negative behavior. A negative action is when a person intentionally inflicts injury or discomfort upon another person, through physical contact, through words or in other ways.**
- **Note that bullying is both overt and covert behaviors.**
- **Cyberbullying occurring outside of school needs to be handled between parents and children.**
- **Saint Francis of Assisi School will intervene when the “cyberbullying creates a hostile environment at school for the victim, infringes on the rights of the victim at school or materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.” (Massachusetts Law Chapter 92 Section 5)**
- **Bullying Consequences:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Offense- Parent will be notified by phone call and email.**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense- Student will have a discussion with the principal.**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense- Student will receive an in-house suspension or detention.**
- Any repeat offender may result in an out of school suspension and may lead to expulsion.**
- **Retaliation or reprisal in any form against any person who has filed a complaint relating to bullying or harassment is forbidden. If it occurs, discipline shall be imposed and could lead to expulsion.**