

## **Sexual Harassment Policy Statement (Grades 3-8)**

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Monterey have adopted a written policy against sexual harassment as it pertains to students.

Sexual harassment is defined in California Education code Section 212.5 as...unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature made by someone from or in the...educational setting, under any of the following conditions:...(c) The conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual's ...academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive ... educational environment.

Examples of behaviors which are considered sexually harassing include:

- pinching, grabbing, or cornering another student;
- sexual comments toward or taunting of another student;
- pulling down pants and/or underwear of another student or snapping a student's bra;
- use of derogatory words or phrases directed to another student;
- assaulting or molesting another student.

The penalties for sexual harassment by students are numerous and severe. First, a student who has sexually harassed may be suspended from school or expelled. In addition, there are three different sets of monetary fines which can be assessed against the parents of a child who has sexually harassed.

Under the California Civil Code, a fine can be assessed against the parents of a minor who causes injury to another student. The fine cannot exceed \$10,000. In addition, under the CA Education Code, a second fine can be assessed the minor's parents. Finally, if a reward is given for information leading to the identity and apprehension of a minor who has willfully caused injury to another, the CA government Code provides that the minor's parents are to be held liable for the amount of the reward, not to exceed \$10,000.

It is possible that if your child sexually harasses another child, your child may be expelled and you may be personally liable for the total sum of \$30,000.

To educate students on proper and improper conduct, the schools of the diocese of Monterey will institute sexual harassment awareness training. In addition, we encourage you to discuss this serious subject with your child.

Please sign and return a copy of this policy statement to the school office within one week of receiving your Family Handbook.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact the school office.

I/We acknowledge receipt of this statement re: sexual harassment as it pertains to students.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name                                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name                                      Date