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■ POLICY

□ GUIDELINE

YOUTH PROTECTION

BULLYING

The Diocese of Columbus youth ministry programs and their youth ministry teams shall not tolerate any bullying on parish grounds or at any program activity on or off site.

Bullying is a pattern of abuse over time and involves a student being “picked on”. Bullying includes physical intimidation or assault; extortion; oral or written threats; teasing; putdowns; name-calling; threatening looks, gestures, or actions; cruel rumors; false accusations; and social isolation.

The diocese expects youth ministry team members who observe or become aware of an act of bullying to take immediate, appropriate steps to intervene. If a team member believes that his/her intervention has not resolved the matter, or if the bullying persists, he/she shall report to the coordinator of youth ministry for further investigation.

The diocese expects youth and parents who become aware of an act of bullying on parish grounds or at any program activity on or off site to report it to the coordinator for further investigation. The coordinator will contact parents of the aggressor and the victim. This investigation may include interviews with youth, parents, team members, parish staff, and reviewing records.

Consequences for youth who bully others should include counseling, parent conference, and/or suspension from activities depending on the results of the investigation.