



HANDS OFF POLICY

RATIONALE

As a state school, we have a responsibility to promote harmony and safety within our school community. All members of Thomastown Secondary College community realise the importance of respecting the rights of others. This policy is to promote an atmosphere and general conduct which discourages/limits the opportunities for Bullying and Harassment and promotes student/staff safety and security.

IMPLEMENTATION

- No student is to touch another student in a manner judged inappropriate by staff.
- No student is to use any form of physical violence against other students, even in “fun” or as a “practical joke”.
- Play fighting is not acceptable behaviour in the school environment.
- Self-defence is defined as the minimum required force to put oneself in a position of safety. Retaliation or revenge will not be tolerated.
- Bullying or any other kind of stand-over tactics will not be tolerated.
- These principles and/or guidelines will be espoused by the Principal and other school leaders and staff at school assemblies, in the classroom and around the school.
- School leaders and senior students are to model these guidelines at all times.
- Year Level Coordinators and teachers should be involved in reinforcing this policy in their dealings with students at school before during and after school.
- Students who are observed inappropriately touching another student will be instructed to stop. If he or she does not, he or she is to be referred to the Coordinator who will take action to modify the inappropriate behaviour. This may include issuing administration detentions and suspensions.

BASIS OF DISCRETION

The Principal may use their discretionary powers in dealing with students who offend this policy.

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on 2/7/19 and is scheduled for review on July 2020.