

■ POLICY

□ GUIDELINE

MINORS AND ADULTS

BULLYING

The Diocese of Columbus catechetical programs and their catechetical leaders or catechists will 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 minor 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 catechetical leaders and catechists who observe or become aware of an act of bullying to take immediate, appropriate steps to intervene. If a catechetical leader or catechist believes that his/her intervention has not resolved the matter, or if the bullying persists, he/she shall report to the pastor for further investigation.

The diocese expects minors and their parents/guardians 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 catechetical leader for further investigation. The catechetical leader will contact parents/guardians of the aggressor and the victim. This investigation may include interviews with youth, parents, team members, parish staff, and reviewing records.

Consequences for a minor who bullies others should include, but are not limited to, counseling, parent/guardian conference, and/or suspension from activities depending on the results of the investigation.

No retaliation shall be taken against a person who reports bullying.

**Department of Religious Education
Catholic Diocese of Columbus**

Adopted	<u>8/04</u>
Reviewed	<u>8/10, 7/17</u>
Revised	<u>7/17</u>