

ASSAULT

Definition

Assault involves an unlawful attempt of force, a threat of force or an application of force to injure another person physically.

Prevention Strategies

- Provide units of study in the curriculum (health programme, Tutor time) which stress values and conflict resolution techniques (e.g. mediation; defusing confrontations) for dealing with human relationships in a non-violent manner.
- Communicate Rosehill College's strong commitment to non-violence to students and their families through school publications such as the Code of Conduct prospectus, the orientation booklet, student diary, school newsletters, and wall posters.
- Establish highly visible duty supervision.
- Encourage students to report cases of conflict likely to result in the use of physical violence by teaching how to recognise signs of escalating conflict.
- Treat all reports of potential conflict and outside assaults seriously and speak to the participants immediately.
- Identify potential victims and provide assertiveness training and support.
- Refer new students with a history of violent behaviour to Student Support.
- Provide staff with professional development opportunities to address the above.

Immediate Response Strategies

- Assess the situation and decide on a strategy (e.g. using help to break up the fight).
- Seek assistance from others who are in the area - students or staff.
- Send others to go for help .
- Separate those involved taking personal safety into consideration.
- Disperse the crowd, noting the names of witnesses.
- Ensure the safety and treatment of the assaulted student/staff members.
- Report the incident to Head of House or Senior Management. If the assault is on a staff member, a member of the SMT must be notified immediately.

Follow up Procedures

Assault Upon a Student

When an assault upon a student by a student of the school occurs the HOH or SMT will:

- Interview the victim, and the person(s) responsible for the alleged assault.
- Contact the parent(s) / caregiver(s).
- Decide on appropriate consequences e.g., suspension; participation in a counselling programme; restrictions on freedom of movement, privileges at school, close monitoring by Tutor Teacher or Head of House or DP/AP; regular periodic assessment and review.
- Person dealing with assault to ensure victim and family are kept informed.
- Recommend indefinite suspension/expulsion.

Note: If the person responsible is not a student of the school, contact the Police.

Assault Upon a Staff Member

If an assault upon a staff member by a student occurs, the Principal or Associate Principal must be informed. They will:

- Ensure the staff member is safe and has appropriate support within and outside of the school.
- Interview person/s responsible for the alleged assault.
- Contact the student's parent(s)/caregiver(s).