CHILD PROTECTION POLICY TO HELP ADDRESS PROBLEMS OF BULLYING IN SCHOOLS

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Children are harassed and bullied every day in schools throughout the country, neighborhoods, and playgrounds. Dr. Claudio V. Cerullo, considered to be an expert on bullying and bullying prevention programs defines bullying as "repeated exposure over time to negative acts on the part of one or more other students. It is chip on one’s shoulder when someone intentionally inflicts, or attempts to inflict, injury or discomfort upon another social, physically, or emotionally."

There are many forms of bullying. It can be physically pugnacious (kicking, hitting or punching), verbally annoying (name calling or threatening), or psychologically antagonistic (spreading rumors or taking actions that socially isolate a child). Today, cyber bullying is a relatively a new form of bullying that involves using the Internet and cell phone messaging to repeatedly intimidate, threaten, or insult another child.

There are many researches showing that bullying involves an imbalance of power either physical or psychological. A usual demonstration would be a larger, stronger student who often bully a child he perceives as weak. Likewise, children who seem to have low spirits, lack of ability to perceive, or weak backbones are often bullied by kids who are more confident and aggressive.

The DepEd Memo No. 40 Series of 2012 is called the Child Protection Policy. This is intended to address the problems of bullying in schools. The order states and I quote, “The Convention on the Rights of The Child (CRC) aims to protect children from all
forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.”

AS educators, it is nearly impossible to guard a student every minute of the hour to protect him or her from abuse. However, being aware and aggressive to prevent this to any of our students should be one of our aims everyday as they are under our care in the school.

References:

https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2012/05/04/803109/deped-issues-child-protection-policy-guidelines