



What is Bullying?

Bullying is the repeated intentional harming or hurting of a person, or their belongings, by another person or persons. It is distinguished by how the targeted person feels.

Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological.

Bullying involves the abuse of power in relationships and can involve all forms of harassment (including sex, race, disability etc).

The school takes bullying seriously and it is not acceptable in any form.

Bullying behaviour can be repeated incidents of the following;

- *Verbal* - Name calling, teasing, abuse, putdowns, sarcasm, insults, threats
- *Physical* - Hitting, punching, kicking, scratching, tripping, spitting
- *Social* - Ignoring, excluding, ostracising, alienating, making inappropriate gestures
- *Psychological* - Spreading rumours, dirty looks, hiding or damaging possessions, malicious SMS and email messages, inappropriate use of camera phones

Bullying –

- devalues, isolates and frightens
- affects a student's ability to achieve
- has long term effects on those engaged in bullying behaviour, those who are subjects of bullying and the onlookers and bystanders.

All members of the school and wider community have a responsibility to work together to address bullying.

Students can expect to -

- know that their concerns will be responded to by school staff
- be provided with appropriate support (for both the subjects of and those responsible for the behaviour)
- take part in learning experiences that address key understandings and skills relating to positive relationships, safety, gender equity, discrimination, bullying and harassment.

These experiences will be guided by the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education syllabuses and other Key Learning Areas.

Students have a responsibility to –

- behave appropriately, respecting individual differences and diversity
- follow the school Anti-Bullying Policy
- respond to incidents of bullying according to the school Anti-Bullying Policy.



Parents and caregivers have a responsibility to –

- support their children in all aspects of their learning
- be aware of the school Anti-Bullying Policy and assist their children in understanding bullying behaviour
- support their children in developing positive responses to incidents of bullying consistent with the school Anti-Bullying Policy.

Schools have a responsibility to -

- inform students, parents, caregivers and the community about the School Discipline Code and Anti-Bullying Plan
- provide students with strategies to respond positively to incidents of bullying behaviour, including responsibilities as bystanders or observers
- provide parents, caregivers and students with clear information on strategies that promote appropriate behaviour, and the consequences for inappropriate behaviour
- communicate to parents and caregivers that they have an important role to play in resolving incidents or bullying behaviour involving their children
- follow up complaints of bullying, harassment and intimidation

Teachers have a responsibility to -

- respect and support students in all aspects of their learning
- model appropriate behaviour
- respond in an appropriate and timely manner to incidents of bullying according to the school Anti-Bullying Policy.



Parent Guide

Individual Student - Suggested Anti-Bullying Plan

Underlying premise – bullying and harassment in schools is totally unacceptable

Plan (to deal with ongoing and long term situations)

Note *This plan should be discussed and a written plan developed as a follow up to the discussions*

- School in consultation with student being bullied/harassed may identify one or two mentor teachers that could be available to support student
- At an agreed time (possibly once daily) the student may meet with the mentor teachers and discuss any problems that have arisen
- The mentor teacher may note the incident (using the question proforma suggested) and advise the student that they will make enquiries and follow through with an appropriate action. It may not be necessary for the teacher to discuss this action with the student
- Where appropriate a method of communication between parents and the mentor teacher (or school executive) should be established to provide two way feedback.
- The mentor teacher may suggest to the student that they should seek additional support and advice (eg year adviser, school counsellor)

Student Responsibilities

As part of this plan students who feel that they being bullied or harassed should

- report all matters to the mentor teacher
- seek assistance before dealing with situations themselves
- reasonably avoid situations where conflict could arise in the class room or playground

What the mentor teacher can do

When the student meets with the mentor teacher they can briefly document the following information by asking

When did the incident occur (time/date)?

Who was involved?

What happened?

How did you deal with the matter?

The teacher and student should agree upon the information and initial the note