



# Bullying Prevention Policy

POLICY 2020

## **Definition:**

A person is bullied when one or more other people expose them regularly and over time to negative or harmful actions. Bullies are people who deliberately set out to intimidate, exclude, threaten and/or hurt others repeatedly. Bullying is a clear form of harassment. Harassment is any verbal, physical or sexual conduct (including gestures) which is uninvited, unwelcome or offensive to a person. Cyber-bullying consists of covert, psychological bullying, conveyed through the electronic mediums such as mobile phones, apps and websites, online games and chat rooms.

## **Rationale:**

The school will provide a positive culture where bullying is not accepted, and in so doing, all will have the right of respect from others, the right to learn or to teach, and a right to feel safe and secure in their school environment.

## **Aims:**

- To reinforce within the school community what bullying and harassment is, and the fact that it is unacceptable.
- Everyone within the school community to be alert to signs and evidence of bullying and to have a responsibility to report it to staff whether as observer or victim.
- To ensure that all reported incidents of bullying are followed up appropriately and that support is given to both victims and perpetrators.
- To seek parental and peer-group support and co-operation at all times.

## **Implementation:**

- Parents, teachers, students and the community will be aware of the school's position on bullying.
- Clear behaviour management processes will be communicated with students, staff and parents.
- Teachers will be regularly reminded of their duty of care regarding protection of students from all forms of bullying.
- The school will adopt a four-phase approach to bullying.

### **1. Primary Prevention:**

- Professional development for staff relating to bullying, harassment and proven counter measures.
- Community awareness and input relating to bullying (including cyber-bullying), its characteristics, its effects on victims and the school's programs and response.
- To provide programs promoting resilience, life and social skills, assertiveness, conflict resolution and problem solving, e.g. Respectful Relationships
- Each classroom teacher to clarify with students at the start of each year the school policy on bullying, including cyber-bullying.
- A wheel of Choice system will be created, implemented and displayed inside and outside the school.
- Processes to be put in place to ensure tracking of student activity on the school's computer equipment and network. Firewalls to be installed to eliminate outside traffic into the school's network and intranet.
- Quality program/anti bullying approaches

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## **2. Early Intervention:**

- Promote children and staff reporting bullying incidents involving themselves or others.
- Classroom teachers and principal on a regular basis reminding students and staff to report incidents of bullying.
- Regular monitoring of student traffic on school's computer networks to identify potential problems.
- Parents encouraged to contact the school if they become aware of a problem.
- Designated safe and quiet places for children to access at recess and lunch times.
- Public recognition and reward for positive behaviour and resolution of problems.
- Parents to be contacted.

## **3. Intervention:**

- Once identified each bully, victim and witnesses will be spoken with, and all incidents or allegations of bullying will be fully investigated and documented.
- Students and staff identified by others as bullies will be informed of allegations.
- Parents to be contacted.
- Both bullies and victims will be offered counselling and support.
- Removal of cyber-bullies from access to the school's network and computers for a period of time.
- If student bullying persists parents will be contacted and consequences implemented consistent with the school's Student Code of Conduct.
- If staff bullying persists the principal will commence formal disciplinary action.

## **4. Post Violation:**

- Consequences for students will be individually based and may involve:-
  - removal from class.
  - removal from yard.
  - internal or external suspension.
  - withdrawal of privileges.
  - ongoing counselling from appropriate agency for both victim and bully.
- Reinforcement of positive behaviours.
- Classroom Meetings.
- Support Structures.
- Ongoing monitoring of identified bullies.
- Rewards for positive behaviour.
- Consequences for staff will be individually based and may involve:-
  - counselling
  - a period of monitoring
  - a formal support group
  - disciplinary actions

Further Information can be found at

- Bully Stoppers
- Kids Helpline
- Lifeline
- Office of the eSafety Commissioner

## **Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

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