

Bullying, Cyberbullying & Harassment Prevention POLICY

Definition:

A person is bullied when they are exposed regularly and over time to negative actions on the part of one or more persons. Bullies are people who deliberately set out to intimidate, exclude, threaten and or hurt others repeatedly. They can operate alone or as a group.

Cyberbullying is the use of technology to bully a person or group with the intent to hurt them socially, psychologically or even physically. <https://www.esafety.gov.au/esafety-information/esafety-issues/cyberbullying>

Cyberbullying can occur in many ways, including, abusive texts and emails, hurtful messages, images or videos, imitating others online, humiliating others online, nasty online gossip and chat.

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 the school environment and related online environment.

Aims:

- To reinforce within the school community that no form of bullying or cyberbullying is acceptable.
- Everyone within the school community to be alert to signs and evidence of bullying/cyberbullying and to have a responsibility to report it to staff whether as observer or victim.
- To ensure that all reported incidents of bullying/cyberbullying are followed up and that support is given to both victim and perpetrator.
- To seek parental and peer-group support and co-operation at all times.

Implementation:

- Parents, teachers and community will be made aware of the school's position on bullying/cyberbullying.

A. Primary Prevention:

- To provide programs that promote resilience, life skills and protective factors for cyberbullying (E.g. eSmart)
- Bullying/cyberbullying survey and yard survey at least twice annually - if possible one person to administer and explain bullying:
- Social Skills programs to develop resilience, conflict resolution, assertiveness and problem solving
- Each classroom teacher to clarify at the start of each year the school policy on bullying.
- Staff and students to promote the philosophy of 'No Put Downs'.
- Promoting children reporting bullying/cyberbullying incidents upon themselves or witnessed.
- Using the Student Perceptions Survey in Years 5 and 6 to identify areas of need
- Classroom teachers on a regular basis reminding students to report incidents, and that reporting is not dobbing.
- Parents encouraged to contact school if they become aware of a problem.
- Chill Out Zone at Derrimut for a safe place for a child to access and have a restorative conversation.
- Setting up routines to instruct and guide cybersafe practices and usage

B. Intervention:

- Identify any records of bullying/cyberbullying via the school online Sentral system in the Wellbeing section
- Once identified; bully, victim and witnesses talked with, and all incidents fully investigated and documented on Sentral in Wellbeing
- Both bully and victim offered counselling and support
- If bullying/cyberbullying is ongoing, parents contacted and consequences implemented consistent with the Student Code of Conduct and counselling
- Ongoing monitoring of identified bullies and use of appropriate consequences. Consequences may involve: exclusion from class or yard with restorative practices, school suspension, withdrawal of privileges, ongoing counselling from appropriate agency for both victim and bully

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.
This policy was last ratified by School Council on 8/12/15.

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