

GOOD SHEPHERD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

The aim of the Anti-Bullying Policy is to ensure that pupils learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. Bullying is anti-social behaviour and affects everyone; it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed will pupils be able to fully benefit from the opportunities available at the school.

Bullying is defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. The three main types of bullying are:

- Physical (hitting, kicking, theft)
- Verbal (name calling, racist remarks)
- Indirect (spreading rumours, excluding someone from social groups).

Students who are being bullied may show changes in behaviour, such as becoming shy and nervous, feigning illness, taking unusual absences or having difficulty separating from parents and carers. There may be evidence of changes in work patterns, lack of concentration or truanting from school. Students must be encouraged to report bullying in schools.

Staff must be alert to the signs of bullying and act promptly and firmly against it in accordance with school policy.

Implementation

The School

The following steps may be taken when dealing with incidents:

- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the staff member who is approached
- A clear account of the incident will be recorded in the playground folder or other written account and given to the Assistant Principal
- The Assistant principal will interview all concerned and will record the incident in the office folder stored in the AP's office
- Parents of both the victim and the offender will be informed of the incident and consequence and response to the care of the victim
- Discipline measures (time-out, loss of playground privileges, detention, behaviour contract, counselling) will be used as appropriate and in consultation with parties concerned
- Restorative Justice practices will be utilised to assist in developing empathy and understanding of the consequences of one's actions.

The Victim

Students who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Offering immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with a member of staff of their choice
- Reassuring the student
- Offering continuous support
- Restoring self-esteem and confidence
- School counselling if required

Students who have bullied will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened
- Discovering why the student became involved
- Establishing the wrong doing and need to change
- Informing parents/carers to help change the attitude of the student
- School counselling if required

The following disciplinary steps can be taken:

- Official warnings to cease offending
- Restorative justice meeting with the victim
- Detention
- Exclusion from certain areas of school premises
- Behaviour contract and negotiated play privileges
- Provision of counselling support through school counselling or STAR
- Suspension

Within the curriculum the school will raise awareness of the nature of bullying through inclusion in PDHPE Program, Bounce Back Program, Restorative Justice Practices and assemblies in an attempt to eradicate such behaviour.

For further information contact:

<http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/>

<http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au/resources/default.shtml>

Kids Helpline – 1800 55 1800

CYBER BULLYING

Cyber bullying includes inappropriate text or images posted on personal websites or transmitted via email or mobile phone.

Most often, cyber bullying is just another tool for the person who bullies face-to-face. However, it is becoming more common for those who are being bullied in the playground to retaliate online. All incidents of cyber bullying should be reported to parents or the school.

Students who use the school internet to bully will lose access to the school's internet and email facility in accordance with the Acceptable Use Policy signed by students parents

Professional development of staff is offered regularly. Parent and student workshops are held when available to inform about the safe and responsible use and legal consequences of cyber bullying. Parents are reminded to be vigilant in ensuring their child does not have access to inappropriate social networking sites, and supervising when children are online.

For more information about safe and responsible use of the Internet and other technologies see:

<http://www.netalert.gov.au>

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.