

Alfredton Primary School

BULLYING PREVENTION

POLICY

Rationale

Alfredton Primary School does not tolerate bullying and harassment in any form. All members of the school community are committed to ensuring a safe and caring environment where all will have the right to be respected by others, to learn, to teach, and to feel safe and secure in the school environment.

Definition

A person is bullied when they are exposed regularly and over time to repeated negative actions on the part of one or more persons. Bullies are people who deliberately set out to intimidate, exclude, threaten, ridicule and or hurt others repeatedly. They can operate alone or as a group. Bullying can take a number of forms: physical, verbal, gesture, extortion and exclusion.

For children, a bully is defined as – *someone who likes making others feel hurt, frightened or sad and who keeps on doing it. Sometimes they get a gang to help them. A bully might try to make them too scared to tell a grown-up about what the bully is doing to them.*

Some examples of bullying include, repeated:

- Physical violence such as hitting, pushing or spitting on others;
- Interfering with another's property by stealing, hiding, damaging or destroying it;
- Using offensive names, teasing or spreading rumours about others or their families;
- Using put-downs, belittling others' abilities and achievements;
- Writing/sending offensive notes (including electronic and social media) or graffiti about others;
- Making degrading comments about another's culture, religious or social background;
- Hurtfully excluding others from a group;
- Making suggestive comments or other forms of sexual abuse;
- Ridiculing another's appearance, and
- Forcing others to act against their will.

People who are bullied:

- May feel frightened, unsafe, embarrassed, angry or unfairly treated;
- May find their work, sleep and ability to concentrate suffer;
- May see their relationships with their family and friends deteriorate, and
- May feel confused and not know what to do about the problem.

Aims:

Dealing with bullying at Alfredton Primary School

The Alfredton school community will not allow cases of bullying to go unreported, but will speak up.

This requires Staff to:

- Ensure that all reported incidents of bullying are followed up immediately;
- Establish facts clearly, speaking to victim, bully and witnesses;
- Ensure that support is provided to any student who has been affected by, engaged in or witnessed bullying behaviour;
- Confront bullies with the seriousness of their actions and offer support in seeking ways to help them change their behaviour;
- Seek parental support and co-operation;
- Record all reported yard incidents into our GradExpert data system and
- Report suspected incidents to the appropriate senior staff member, and
- Seek to 'identify hot spots' for bullying in the school environment and find ways to address these hot spots (e.g. greater adult supervision, changing the physical environment so bullying is less likely to occur).

This requires students to:

- Refuse to be involved in any bullying situation. If present when any bullying occurs:
 - Take some form of preventative action, and
 - Report the incident or suspected incident and help break down the code of secrecy.

The School recommends that parents:

- Watch for signs of distress in their children, e.g. patterns of unwillingness to attend school, headaches, missing equipment, requests for extra money, damaged clothes or bruising;
- Take an active interest in their child's social life and acquaintances;
- Advise their child to tell a staff member about the incident;
- Inform the school if bullying is suspected;
- Keep a written record (who, what, when, where, why, how);
- Do not encourage their child to retaliate;
- Discuss with their child that if necessary it is OK for them to contact the school;
- Be willing to attend interviews at the school if their child is involved in any bullying incident, and
- Be willing to inform the school of any cases of suspected bullying even if their child is not directly affected.

What does the School do to prevent bullying and harassment at Alfredton Primary School.

Staff will:

- Consistently and fairly implement all aspects of the Student Code of Conduct;
- Monitor all playground incidents to determine any emerging bullying issues;
- Work with students to establish a clear set of classroom rules that reflect the school values;
- Work together to actively promote and model positive behaviours, values and attitudes;
- Be alert to signs of distress or suspected incidents of bullying and report these immediately;
- Encourage students to speak out and report bullies;
- Implement specific social skills programs, including Respectful Relationships, Bounce Back, and Restorative Practices;
- Provide for student input through surveys and circle time;
- Arrive at class on time and move promptly between lessons, and
- Make efforts to prevent opportunities for bullying by active supervision during yard duty.

With staff, students and parents working together a safe and caring learning environment is created for all students.

Student Program and Policies to support this Policy:

- Respectful Relationships Program
- Student Welfare.
- Student Code of Conduct.
- Bounce Back.
- Drug Education.
- Transition.
- Buddies and cross age tutoring.
- Values.
- Personal Development.
- Interpersonal Development
- Esmart school

References/Resources:

Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800

We help young Australians to express themselves, build confidence and live safely. Kids can chat with our qualified counsellors free and we speak with 1000's of young people every month.

Victoria Police Youth Resource Officer

The Youth Resource Officer program is a policing youth framework that increases the capacity of police to deal with police and youth issues; meeting the needs of modern policing, operational police, the local community and government. Youth Resource Officers are assigned to Local Government Areas.

Evaluation: This policy will be reviewed annually as part of the school's review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

November 2017