

Guiding Principles

Aim

The aim of this policy is to ensure that Westall Primary School is a safe environment, free from bullying, for all members of the School community.

All children have the right to attend school and feel happy and safe. Westall Primary School does not tolerate bullying in any form. We are all committed to a caring, happy and secure environment, which promotes sharing, cooperation, respect, honesty and fairness for all.

Westall Primary School believes in providing a safe and happy environment for all children. The school is committed to ensuring that all individuals are responsible for promoting a caring environment for everyone.

Definition

Bullying is when someone, or a group of people, upset or create a risk to another person's health and safety - either psychologically or physically - or their property, reputation or social acceptance on more than one occasion.

Types of Bullying

- There are three broad categories of bullying.
- Direct physical bullying e.g. hitting, tripping, and pushing or damaging their property.
- Direct verbal bullying e.g. name calling, insults, homophobic or racist remarks, verbal abuse.
- Indirect bullying - This form of bullying is harder to recognise and often carried out behind the bullied student's back. It is designed to harm someone's social reputation and/or cause humiliation.

Indirect Bullying includes:

- lying and spreading rumours
- playing nasty jokes to embarrass and humiliate
- mimicking
- encouraging others to socially exclude someone
- damaging someone's social reputation and social acceptance
- cyber-bullying, which involves the use of email, text messages or chat rooms to humiliate and distress.

What Bullying is not

Many distressing behaviours are not examples of bullying even though they are unpleasant and often require teacher intervention and management. There are three socially unpleasant situations that are often confused with bullying:

Mutual conflict - In mutual conflict situations, there is an argument or disagreement between students but not an imbalance of power. Both parties are upset and usually both want a resolution to the problem. However, unresolved mutual conflict sometimes develops into a bullying situation with one person becoming targeted repeatedly for 'retaliation' in a one-sided way.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Wellbeing Policy.

Objectives

- To reduce the incidence of bullying.
- To counter the view that bullying is an inevitable part of school life.
- To create a supportive climate and break down the secrecy surrounding bullying.
- To provide staff, students and parents with options to respond to bullying.

Responsibilities

Students

If a student feels they are being bullied or has witnessed bullying behaviour they should:

- Be aware of the definition of bullying
- Tell the person that they are being a bully and to stop the behaviour.
- Support the person who is being bullied and request help from a teacher at the time of the incident.
- Report behaviour to a teacher of student's choice.
- Refrain from bullying others.

Teachers

If a student reports a bullying incident or a teacher witnesses incidents of bullying, they should:

- Listen and provide support to the target of the bullying by acknowledging the nature and seriousness of bullying behaviour.
- Find out the background and attempt to resolve the incident.
- Fill out a report form if appropriate.
- Refer the incident to the class teacher if necessary.
- Provide support to targets of bullying.
- Record and monitor incidents of bullying behaviour.
- Put in place anti-bullying procedures as appropriate
 - eg. Ask the perpetrator to acknowledge the behaviour and agree to stop it. (see Bullying Reflection form)
 - Contact parent /s of the student who has been bullying another/ others
- Encourage target student to report similar behaviour if repeated until bullying ceases.
- Keep classroom teacher involved.

School

- Dissemination of Policy and Procedures
- Inclusion in Curriculum both formally and informally.

Parents and Caregivers

- Encourage students to discuss the effects and consequences of bullying.
- Encourage students to report any incidents of bullying.
- Contact the school if you are aware that any child is being bullied or suspect that it is happening.

Intervention

Ongoing professional development for teachers and information sessions for parents will be organised as the need arises.

Children will be involved in anti-bullying and resilience programs throughout the year. Continuous monitoring across the school to ensure incidents are reported and dealt with as they occur.

Class teacher, section coordinator, Assistant Principal and Principal will be involved with incidents of bullying, depending on the nature. Parents will be notified if incidents continue to be of concern.

Procedures to be implemented may include:

- Counselling
- Development of a contract
- Restricted yard access/ walk with yard duty teacher
- Detention/restricted recess and/or lunchtime outdoors
- Interview with parents

Formal discipline procedures (as set out by DEECD) may be instigated at the Principal's discretion.

Policy ratified by School Council on _____

BULLYING REPORT FORM

Details of Person Taking Report

Name: _____

Position: _____

Signature: _____

Date of Report: ___/___/___ Time: ___ am/pm

Details of Person(s) Reporting:

Name _____

Class: _____

Others: Name (s) _____

Home Group (s): _____

Witness(es)/ Bystanders Name(s) (if any):

Brief Details:

Person Reporting Bullying : Statement:

Person (People) Accused of Bullying : Statement:

Witness Statement:

Have any of these people been named in a previous report? Yes/No (Circle)
Provide brief details.

Action taken by teacher(s) :

BULLYING REFLECTION SHEET

Name: _____ Grade: _____

What I did

How my behaviour affected another person

How could I make better choices next time?

I understand that my choice of behaviour is bullying. If I continue with this kind of action, it may lead to my parents being contacted and ultimately suspension.

I understand that my behaviour will be monitored for the next two (2) weeks

by: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____