

DEDERANG PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Where each child is challenged to be curious, creative and caring."



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

Bullying is anti-social behaviour that is totally unacceptable to our school community. Students, staff members and parents of DPS have the right to a safe and caring environment which promotes learning, personal growth and positive self-esteem.

Strategies must be in place to effectively teach students the understandings that will lead to elimination of bullying behaviours.

These strategies will empower the whole school community to recognise and act upon bullying and harassment. All school community members will be encouraged to consider their responsibility in bully prevention.

OUR DEFINITION OF BULLYING

Bullying is when a person or group of people **repeatedly** hurt, embarrass or frighten another person.

Bullying can take many forms:

Physical bullying; including fighting, pushing, shoving, gestures or invasion of personal space.

Verbal bullying; including name calling, offensive language, putting people down, picking on people because of their gender, sexual orientation, religion, team allegiance, appearance or race.

Visual bullying; including offensive notes or material, graffiti, or damaging other people's possessions.

Cyber bullying; bullying using digital technologies including; image sharing, hurtful texts and emails, pranking and online sharing of personal information without permission.

Victimisation; including stand-over tactics, picking on others, threats to 'get' people, repeated exclusion.

Extortion bullying; using intimidation to demand payment of food, money, toys or favours.

Exclusion bullying; used to isolate a student from their peer group, destroying their social life.

Aims of Policy

1. To reinforce within the school community what bullying is, and the fact that it is unacceptable.
2. To alert everyone within the school community to signs and evidence of bullying and to inform them that we have a responsibility to work together.
3. To ensure that all reported incidents of bullying are dealt with in a partnership process and that support and recognition is given to both the victim and the perpetrator.

Implementation

4. The school will promote positive, responsible behaviour through its core curriculum provision, newsletters, assemblies and positive reinforcement of supportive behaviours.
5. The wider school community will be educated to recognise bullying behaviour, understand the consequences of bullying behaviour for the victim and the bully, and develop strategies to deal with bullying behaviour and consequences.
6. Parents who become aware of incidents of bullying are requested to report the incidents to the Classroom teacher or Principal.
7. All staff are to be vigilant and act upon all instances of bullying.
8. Students in the company of others engaging in bullying behaviours will be considered to be supporting that behaviour and will be part of the process. It is the responsibility of those who see bullying to seek support to stop it.
9. Both bullied and bullying parties are informed that the situation is being monitored. Individual circumstances will determine the precise arrangement to be made. All parents will be notified.
10. At all times, confidentiality will be respected when using any data, programs or reports.
11. A program will be implemented across the school to develop resilience, conflict resolution, assertiveness and problem solving.
12. A co-ordinated approach to anti-bullying, including cyber bullying.
13. Incidents of bullying will be managed following the DPS Behaviour Support Flowchart and the DET Anti-bullying Guidelines.
14. Accurate recording of bullying incidents will be maintained by the school, and where appropriate reported to the DET.
15. Staff will listen to children who have been bullied, take what they say seriously and endeavour to protect them. Staff should not promise to solve the problem, but should always offer to investigate.
16. Staff will report suspected cases of bullying to the Principal.
17. Bully stoppers brochures highlighting strategies will be available to students and families.

LEGISLATION:

Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

RELATED POLICIES AND INFORMATION:

DPS Complaints Resolution Policy
DPS eLearning Protocol Agreement
DPS eSmart Policy
DPS Behaviour Support Flowcharts
Victorian DET Bullying Prevention Policy
Bullystoppers Website

Presented to School Council 26th June 2017 and approved.

Policy review (annually): 2018