



Blanchetown Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy 2013

At Blanchetown Primary School, all members of our community are committed to ensuring a safe and supportive environment which promotes personal growth and fosters positive self-esteem for everyone.

We strive to maintain a setting in which everyone feels valued and respected and where individual differences are appreciated, understood and accepted.

Within this context we do not tolerate bullying or harassment in any form.

A definition of bullying

Bullying is defined here as a physical and / or psychological action by an individual or group which is purposely intended to hurt or stress another. Bullying is seen as deliberate and can occur over a period of time.

It includes:

Direct bullying:

Physical:

- Hitting, kicking, punching, pushing, shoving, spitting, making rude gestures
- Taking or damaging something that belongs to someone else
- Forcing others to hand over food, money or something which belongs to them, making somebody do something they don't want to do.

Verbal:

- Name calling, teasing, threatening
- Making fun of someone because of their appearance, physical characteristics, cultural background or beliefs.
- Making fun of someone's actions

Indirect bullying:

- Excluding others from the game or the group
- Spreading untrue stories about others
- Hiding books or belongings
- Threatening gestures e.g. "looks"
- Graffiti
- Put downs
- Unwanted physical contact

Cyber bullying:

Teasing, spreading rumours or sending unwanted messages using electronic methods such as

- email

- social network sites
- Instant messaging
- SMS

Signs of bullying can include:

- unexplained cuts, bruises or scratches
- damaged or ripped clothing
- vague headaches or stomach aches
- refusal to go to school
- asking for extra pocket money or food
- tearfulness, anxiety or difficulty sleeping
- 'hiding' information on mobile phones, emails or in comments on their social networking pages.

What can be done about bullying?

All members of our school community can help prevent bullying behaviour. This includes:

- abstaining personally from bullying others
- actively discouraging bullying when it occurs
- giving support to those who are victimised

Responsibilities of Staff

- Be a positive role model.
- Teach students the skills and strategies for bullying prevention
- Be available and ready to listen and respond to reports of bullying
- Treat information seriously.
- Ensure follow-up by reviewing the situation.
- Empower students to take responsibility for themselves and their actions
- Support others in dealing with incidents of bullying.
- Contact and inform parents if bullying behaviour occurs.

Responsibilities of Students

- Make others feel happy and safe.
- Help the person being bullied
- Don't stand there and watch – get help.
- Show that you and your friends do not like bullying.
- Report bullying whether it happens to you or not.
- Respect and value other students, staff and members of the school community.
- Not take part in bullying behaviours towards other students and staff.
- Be compassionate, empathetic and understand the effects of racism, sexual harassment and bullying on individuals and groups in our society.

- Develop appropriate skills and behaviours in communicating and working effectively with people from a variety of backgrounds.
- Take responsibility for their own behaviours – tell the person or people to STOP the harassment or bullying.
- Talk to parents/caregivers or a trusted adult.

Responsibilities of parents & caregivers

- Remind your children that they are highly valued and assist them in maintaining a positive self worth.
- Discuss positive strategies rather than getting even.
- Advise your child to tell a trusted adult.
- Watch for signs of distress and behavioural changes in their child:
 - Unwillingness to attend school
 - A pattern of headaches or stomach aches
 - Personal items or equipment that have gone missing
 - Damaged clothing or bruising
- Model appropriate behaviours at all times
- Inform the school if a bullying incident occurs within school time or the police if it occurs out of school.
- Be available and ready to listen to reports of bullying

What staff do about incidents of bullying

- We will listen and talk to the person who has been bullied and the person who has bullied others.
- We will put negotiated consequences in place for the person who has been bullying others.
These may include a warning, time out, exclusion from play / special events/ excursions, being sent home, a meeting with parents, suspension or exclusion from school.

What we do at Blanchetown Primary School to reduce bullying

If an incident of bullying happens at Blanchetown Primary School we use **prevention, intervention** and **post-intervention** strategies.

Prevention strategies include:

- using the curriculum to teach students about respectful relationships, civics and citizenship
- annually review Student Code of Conduct with students and parents
- developing programs to help students participate and have a say in their learning
- teaching students about violence prevention, conflict resolution, anger management and problem-solving strategies

- develop policies which promote student safety
- teaching for and about diversity
- providing professional learning for staff in collaboration with local agencies.
- reporting to Governing Council regularly about anti bullying initiatives and bullying data.

Intervention strategies include:

- counselling students who have been bullied
- talking with parents or caregivers about the situation
- putting consequences in place for those who bully others
- teaching students to be better bystanders
- ensuring that all staff know how to address bullying effectively and respectfully

Post-intervention strategies include:

- monitoring the situation between the students to ensure that their safety and wellbeing are maintained
- talking with parents or caregivers about strategies
- reviewing and evaluating behaviour codes and policies
- Reporting to Governing Council

At Blanchetown Primary School we believe that

Bullying is everyone's business!

So we are working together to create learning environments where every student and school community member is safe, supported, respected, valued – and are free from bullying, violence, harassment and discrimination. We will review our Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedures annually in term 4 to ensure we maintain a proactive stance to bullying. We will provide information about school policies via the school's website and newsletters.

If you would like further information about bullying, please contact us at Blanchetown Primary School on:

Telephone: 08 85405041

Email: Matt.Kerslake302@schools.sa.edu.au

Parents and the community can also access the policy via the school website:

<http://www.blanchtnps.sa.edu.au/>

Other useful websites:

www.safeschools.deewr.gov.au

www.decd.sa.gov.au/parentcomplaint/

www.bullyingnoway.gov.au

www.decd.sa.gov.au/learnerwellbeing/



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