



## Blanchetown Primary School

### Anti-Bullying Policy 2018

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.

**We do not tolerate bullying or harassment in any form.**

#### A definition of bullying

Bullying is defined as physical and/or psychological action by an individual or group which is purposely intended to hurt or stress another, is deliberate, can occur over a period of time, and where there is a power imbalance

#### 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 others 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 through:

- 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/s to STOP the harassment or bullying
- Talk to parents/carers or a trusted adult

### **Responsibilities of parents & carers**

- Remind your children that they are highly valued and assist them maintain 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 with the person who has experienced bullying and the person who has undertaken bullying behaviours
- Consequences will be negotiated 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 occurs at Blanchetown Primary School we use **prevention, intervention** and **post-intervention** strategies.

#### **Prevention strategies** include:

- Using the curriculum to teach students about respectful relationships,
- Annually review the Student Code of Conduct with students, families and staff
- Developing student voice to help them to engage and have a say in their learning
- Implementing the "Kids Matter" Framework
- 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
- Talking with parents/carers 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/carers about strategies
- Reviewing and evaluating behaviour codes and policies
- Reporting to Governing Council

### **Bullying is everyone's business!**

**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 3 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: [Sue.billett87@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Sue.billett87@schools.sa.edu.au)

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

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

Other useful websites:

[www.safeschools.deewr.gov.au](http://www.safeschools.deewr.gov.au)

[www.decd.sa.gov.au/parentcomplaint/](http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/parentcomplaint/)

[www.bullyingnoway.gov.au](http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au)

[www.decd.sa.gov.au/learnerwellbeing/](http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/learnerwellbeing/)



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Department for Education