

HAPPY VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANTI BULLYING POLICY



RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

INTEGRITY

OUR RATIONALE

The school values of responsibility, respect and integrity are reflected in a safe, supportive learning community.

We are committed to preventing and eliminating bullying in all its forms by:

- Promoting the wellbeing of students to achieve their best and enjoy their educational experience.
- Teaching respectful relationships for a positive learning culture to reduce the incidence of bullying and harassment.

BULLYING AND HARRASSMENT

Bullying is repeated verbal, physical or social behaviour that hurts, threatens, embarrasses or intimidates others. There is an intention to cause fear, distress and/or harm. It is defined by the effects on the victim, not the intent of the person/s bullying.

Bullying in any form, for any reason, can have long-term effects on those involved.

Examples of bullying include:

- Physical: hitting, pushing, touching, grabbing, facial expressions, spitting, taking or damaging property, using a weapon.
- Verbal or Written: spoken or written insults, threats, suggestive comments, name-calling, unfair criticism, spreading rumours.
- Sexual/Racial: any unwelcome written, verbal or physical contact of a sexual/racial nature, teasing of skin colour, or gender.
- Cyber: using e-mail, voice and text messaging, social networking sites, photographic and video images.
- Graffiti: using pictures, tags or words.
- Social: forming groups to leave out, ignore or disrespect, influencing, encouraging or organising someone else to be involved in any type of bullying or harassment.

STAFF MEMBERS ACTION ON BULLYING

- Incorporate positive, preventative and consistent anti-bullying strategies in their classroom programs.
- Be positive role models to students and adopt positive classroom management strategies.
- Intervene with all witnessed or reported bullying and follow-up regularly.
- Be observant of any signs of bullying.
- Treat all reports of bullying seriously.
- Record all identified bullying incidents on the school 'Bullying Report' forms.
- Communicate with Parent/Caregivers.
- Inform the leadership team of serious incidents.

STUDENT RESPONSE TO BULLYING

- Have a variety of friends to mix with at recess or lunch time.
- Be courageous by taking a stand and walking away or telling the person doing it to stop. Tell a staff member that you trust if you feel it is on-going.
- Show care and respect for others in and outside the classroom. Make a special effort towards a student who seems lonely by inviting them into your friendship group.
- If you get involved in bullying yourself, remember how it felt when someone was unkind to you. Say sorry and stop it.
- Behave as a positive bystander; do not encourage the bully through your presence or actions.
- Support the person being bullied by encouraging them to safely leave the situation, by walking with them.
- Encourage and if necessary go with the victim to seek teacher assistance and report the incident.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE TO BULLYING

- Act confidently, even if you feel scared.
- Stay away from places that aren't comfortable for you.
- Respond to the bullying with statements that say you don't like what they are doing or what they are saying. Look at them directly and say confidently: 'Stop it' or 'I don't like what you're doing.'
- If the behaviour continues, tell your teacher or a staff member you trust and your parents. It is your right to be safe and treated with respect. Staff will deal with your complaint in a confidential manner.
- Do not try to get even or take matters into your own hands, it will make the problem worse.
- Remember that you will be believed and you will be helped.

CONSEQUENCES TO BULLYING BEHAVIOURS

- The school will follow the processes outlined in the Student Behaviour Development Policy.
- You will be counselled by your classroom teacher. You will be given the opportunity to resolve the situation and discuss the issue with the person you bullied.
- If you persist in bullying you will be referred to a member of the leadership team for counselling and your parents will be contacted. Consequences will be applied eg alternative play, loss of privileges, suspension, exclusion to another site.

PARENTS CAN HELP

Take an active interest in your child's social life and what's happening at school.

Encourage your child

- To bring friends home.
- To accept and tolerate differences in others.

Build his or her self confidence

- By recognising and affirming their positive qualities.
- By valuing him or her for who he or she is.

Discuss with your child

- The school's expectations about behaviour.
- Ways to respond if his or her rights are infringed.

Encourage constructive responses

- Physical bullying or persistent teasing should be reported.
- Hitting back or retaliating with name calling won't solve the problem.

Set an example

- Be firm but not aggressive in setting limits.
- Be positive in the things you say and do.

Be alert for signs of distress

- Unwillingness to attend school.
- Dropping off in the quality of school work.
- Damaged clothing or frequent loss of personal property.
- Loss of confidence or mood changes.
- Withdrawal from social activities.

Act

- If your child is being bullied, discuss the issue with the Teacher and members of the Leadership Team.
- Contact can be made by telephoning 8381 7166, on Tiqbiz or emailing dl.0171.info@schools.sa.edu.au.