

DIGGERS REST PRIMARY SCHOOL ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Student Welfare & Discipline policy.

What kind of school has a problem with bullying?

All schools have a problem with bullying, as it is often evident in a large group situation.

Definition

A person is bullied when they are intentionally exposed regularly and over time to negative or harmful actions by one or more people. Bullies are people who deliberately set out to intimidate, exclude, threaten, verbally harass, damage belongings and/or hurt others repeatedly. Bullying is a clear form of harassment.

Rationale

- Diggers Rest Primary School will provide a positive culture where bullying is not accepted, and in so doing, all will have the right of respect from others, the right to learn or to teach, and a right to feel safe and secure in their school environment.
- The school promotes tolerance and understanding of difference with the community and promotes opportunities to celebrate difference.
- The prevention of bullying is enhanced when staff, parents and students respect each other, work together in order to create a supportive, safe school environment.

Role of Staff

Staff interaction with students has important consequences for the level of bullying in a school. Staff can have a significant impact by:

- Promoting anti-bullying programs in the classroom and school.
- Listening sympathetically to students who need support and initiating action.
- Expressing disapproval of bullying whenever it occurs and following up appropriately.
- Providing strategies for both students and parents to deal with bullying issues.
- Supporting the school anti-bullying policy.

Role of Parents

Parents have an active role to play in countering bullying by:

- Addressing unacceptable behaviour of their children both at home and at school.
- Taking responsibility to act as a positive role model for their children.
- Informing the school of any concerns and allowing the school to follow up those concerns.
- Seeking understanding of bullying instances before reacting.
- Supporting the school anti-bullying policy.

Role of Students

Students can counter the effects of bullying by:

- Being actively involved in the variety of programs that the school offers.
- Developing a sense of respect and understanding of the needs of others.
- Not taking part in bullying
- Reporting bullying incidents involving themselves or others.
- Supporting students who are being bullied.
- Developing strategies to deal with bullies
ie. "I don't like what you're doing.", "You don't have the right to do that to me."



Aims

- To reinforce within the school community what bullying is, and the fact that it is unacceptable.
- To identify the extent of bullying in the school, where and when it is occurring and who are the victims and perpetrators.
- To encourage everyone within the school community to be alert to signs and evidence of bullying and to have a responsibility to report it to staff whether as observer or victim.
- To ensure that all reported incidents of bullying are followed up appropriately and that support is given to both victims and perpetrators.
- To seek parental and peer-group support and co-operation at all times.

Implementation

- Parents, teachers, students and the community will be aware of the school's position on bullying. Copies will be distributed to parents and displayed in prominent areas of the school.
- Establish a safe, supportive environment within the school, involving direct teaching about bullying that promotes resilience, life and social skills, assertiveness, conflict resolution and problem solving through programs such as:
 - Health Education (P – 6)
 - Life Education Van (P – 6)
 - Prep Buddies (Grs P & 5)
 - Stop, Think, Do (Grs 4 – 6)
 - School and classroom rules (P – 6)
 - Identify, Cope, Prevent Program (P – 6)
 - Peer Support (Grs 3, 4 & 6)
- Children to be recognised for their achievements through Pupil of the Week, school representation in sports teams, choir, music and art displays, community events.
- Children have leadership opportunities within the school such as House Captain, Junior School Council and Peer Support.
- Electives and structured activities available to students at recess and lunch breaks such as library, woodwork, sport, performance groups.
- Passive activities – the courtyard is a designated safe and quiet place for children to access at recess and lunchtime.
- Professional development for staff relating to bullying, harassment and the strategies that counter-act them.
- Children are aware they should report instances of bullying involving themselves or others as soon as it occurs.
- Parents are encouraged to contact school if they become aware of a problem and be part of the solution.

Consequences

- Positive behaviour will be acknowledged and rewarded.
- Once a problem is identified, all incidents or allegations of bullying will be fully investigated and documented.
- Children engaged in bullying behaviour will be required to empathise with other party, for example through a written or verbal apology.
- There will be ongoing monitoring and support of identified bullies and victims.
- In instances of bullying, parents will be contacted and responses sought from both parties.
- Consequences implemented consistent with the school's Welfare and Discipline Policy.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed with student, parent and community input as part of the school's review cycle.



Draft Anti-Bullying Policy 2004

Dear Parents,

Recently the staff and school council have been working towards a new anti-bullying policy for the school.

We now ask that parents read the attached policy and you are invited to make any comments that may improve the document to best reflect the school community's attitude to bullying.

Junior School Council will also be asked to make a contribution to developing the final policy.

If you have any comments to make in regard to the school's anti-bullying policy please feel free to do so on the form below. All comments will be considered when developing the final draft. Please note that this policy should be read in conjunction with the Student Welfare & Discipline policy distributed last term.

The form should be returned to school by Friday, May 28th 2004.

Sean Lawless

Principal

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Parent Comment – Draft Anti-Bullying Survey

Name: _____ Grades of Child/ren: Prep 1 2 3 4 5 6

Strengths

Areas for improvement

Ideas to be added

Other Comments



Please feel free to attach further comments.
Diggers Rest Primary School Making learning a lifelong journey