Anti Bullying Policy

At Angle Vale Primary School we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our students so they can learn in a safe and supportive atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable. If bullying does occur, all students should be able to report it and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. Anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to report it to school staff.

Objectives of this Policy

- All staff, students and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All staff should know the Anti-Bullying Policy and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All students and parents should know the Anti-Bullying Policy and what they should do if bullying occurs.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Students and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying of any description will not be tolerated.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of targeted, intentional and ongoing unwanted behaviour towards another person with the intention of hurting, either physically or emotionally. Bullying is not a 'one off' incident of harassment or teasing.

Bullying can be:

**Physical** - hitting, pushing, touching, rubbing, grabbing, spitting, taking / damaging property and using weapons.

**Sexual** - unwelcome physical contact, written, or verbally abusive comments

Homophobic focussing on a person’s sexuality

**Racist** - racial taunts about skin colour, culture or religion.

**Emotional** - deliberately excluding, ignoring and disrespecting another person

**Written** - written insults, threats, suggestive comments, name-calling, including using pictures, tags or words

**Verbal** - name-calling, sarcasm, unfair criticism, spreading rumours or teasing

**Face and Body Signals** - looks, stares, facial expressions, and signs

**Indirect** - influencing or organising someone else to harass

**Cyber** - all areas of internet, such as using social media as a means of harassing another person. Mobile phone threats by text messaging and calls. Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera and video facilities

**Bystander** - watching bullying occur and not doing something to stop it and / or reporting it
Signs and Symptoms

Children who are being bullied at school may not always tell teachers about it. They may be afraid to tell, thinking that it may make the situation worse. This is why, parents or caregivers have an important part to play in helping your child and the school deal with bullying.
A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- refuses to go to school and is finding excuses not to go (eg pretending to be sick).
- is frightened of walking to or from school / begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- begins to truant
- has unexplained cuts, bruises or scratches.
- has unexplained change of mood, tension or emotional distress (crying, acting out, periods of sadness) cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- has damaged or missing clothing / possessions.
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- begins to do poorly in school work
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

Why is it important to respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Students who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.
As a school we have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Procedures – What will the school do when a report of bullying occurs?

- Report bullying incidents to staff immediately. Use the Grievance Procedures to report bullying.
- The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying will be investigated. This will include documentation of the bullying issue.
- In serious cases parents will be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.
- The victim of bullying will be involved / informed of progress towards resolving the bullying issue.
- If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted.
- An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.

Outcomes – What will happen as an outcome of the investigation in to bullying?

We use a range of preventative, intervention and follow-up strategies to best deal with the situation by:

- Using Restorative Practices to repair and strengthen relationships
- Educating students on how to be confident and to cooperate and get along with others
- Encouraging students to bounce back and be resilient
- Teaching students about conflict resolution, anger management, problem solving and assertiveness training

Other consequences may take place.

In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered.

After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.
Prevention – What does the school do as part of the curriculum?

We will use a number of methods for helping students to prevent bullying. All teachers will use the Child Protection Curriculum as a reference for teaching students the skills to prevent, recognize and/or manage bullying.

Teaching students about honesty, responsibility, respect and empathy

Need more information

Parent Helpline: 1800222696
Kids Helpline: 1800551800
Child & Youth Health Parent Helpline: 1300364100

www.bullyingnoway.com.au
www.kidshelp.com.au
www.racismnoway.com.au
www.beyondblue.org.au
www.headroom.net.au

For information regarding cyber bullying access these web sites:
www.netalert.net.au
www.cybersmartkids.com.au