

COONALPYN PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY 2014

Bullying behaviour

Deliberately and repeatedly name-calling, making sexist or racist remarks, spreading rumours, texting abusive messages, threatening someone or excluding someone from games and groups are all examples of bullying or harassment.

Not all distressing or hurtful behaviour is bullying. For example:

a single incident of malicious or aggressive behaviour

Bullying and harassment are repeated actions. A single incident may still be responded to as part of the school's behaviour management processes as unacceptable behaviour.

Cyber-bullying can occur from a single act when the message or picture is sent to more than one person. For example, a bully may only press 'send' once, but the choice to send the message to multiple addresses, makes the action more than a single incident.

dislike

Although social rejection can be hurtful, it is not bullying unless accompanied by repeated and deliberate attempts to distress or hurt.

conflict

Arguments can be distressing but it is not bullying when two people are both upset and neither one is misusing power over the other. Conflict may still give rise to unacceptable behaviour which will be responded to as part of the school's behaviour management processes.

DEFINITIONS: Coonalpyn Primary believes;

- **Bullying** to be a behaviour that involves the misuse of power; involving physical, emotional, sexual, and/or verbal treatment that leads to the devaluing and exclusion of others.
- A **bully** is a person or group behaving in a way which might meet his/her needs for excitement, status, material gain and one who does not recognise the needs and rights of others who are harmed by the behaviour.
- A **victim** is a person or group that is harmed by the behaviour of others and who does not have the resources, status or ability to stop the harmful behaviour.

SCHOOL STATEMENT:

Coonalpyn Primary School views bullying seriously. Our main aim is to foster an environment where bullying is discouraged and seen to be inappropriate.

Bullying is a universal problem, but we believe that as a school community, we can reduce the number of bullying incidents by working together. This will support our student's rights to enjoy their educational experiences without fear of harassment. To achieve this, it is necessary that we operate an active whole school Anti Bullying Policy that is applied consistently and promptly.

Early intervention is important if behaviours are to be changed.

AIMS:

The values of the school are:

HONESTY EXCELLENCE RESPONSIBILITY RESILIENCE RESPECT

- To be aware of the quantity and nature of bullying that takes place in the school.
- To effect changes in the school community to stop bullying (EXCELLENCE)

- To create a caring community where no students need fear intimidation by reporting all instances of bullying. (RESPONSIBILITY)
- To further the social, moral and cultural development of the individual and the community.(HONESTY)
- To implement anti-bullying programmes relating to self-awareness, responsibility and respect of others. (RESPECT AND RESILIENCE)

RESPONSES TO BULLYING:

Anyone can and should report any bullying incident, whether as a witness, victim or bully.

Students are informed that anyone wishing to report an incident can approach any member of staff with whom they feel comfortable. If the matter is urgent, students should approach the first staff member they encounter.

All staff will be ready and willing to deal with any incident that is brought to their attention. If appropriate, that member of staff will deal with the incident individually. Otherwise the Principal will be consulted.

Bullies will be made to realise the effect their actions have on others.

Each person in a 'bullying group' is responsible, including bystanders who claim to have 'done nothing.'

School responses to bullying may include:

- Operating a reporting and recording procedure.
- Dealing with reports fast and fairly.
- Interviewing all involved and taking into account all views.
- Provide anonymity for the victim whenever possible.
- Offer advice and support for the victim and the person/s responsible.
- Ensure that all involved are kept informed.
- Operate a system of consequences, which reflect the seriousness of the offence. (In the case of assault, the police may be involved.)

RESPONSE CHART

1. INITIAL INCIDENT



a) Reported



b) Counselling by staff member



c) Letter may be sent home to Parents/Carers of victim and bully



d) Consequence (if needed) for bully

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2) A FURTHER INCIDENT OCCURS



a) Both sets of Parents/Caregivers may be asked to attend a meeting at school.



b) Strategy developed to meet the needs of students.
(No Blame Approach)



c) Further counselling and observations of bully/victim relationship.

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3) BULLYING CONTINUES



a) Parents/Caregivers attend a meeting at school.



b) Consequences for bully may lead to suspension from school.



c) Additional external assistance may be sought for the bully.



d) Exclusion from school if bully is unwilling/unable to change behaviour.

Next Review September 2017