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Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

COONALPYN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Anti-Bullying Policy

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 incidences by working together. This will support our students' 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.

Bullying and Harassment can take many forms.

It can occur student to student, teacher to student, student to teacher, teacher to parent, parent to teacher, parent to parent, teacher to teacher.

DEFINITIONS:

BULLYING -

Bullying is repeated, verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons.

Bullying of any form or for any reason can have long-term effects on those involved including bystanders.

CYBER BULLYING -

Bullying has taken on a new dimension with the introduction of new forms of electronic communication. Cyber bullying can be perpetrated at any time of the day or week, This behaviour can threaten the safety or well being of others.

Cyber bullying uses e-technology as a means of victimising others. It is the use of an internet service or mobile technologies – such as email, chat room, discussion groups, instant messaging, web pages or SMS (text messaging) – with the intention of harming another person. Examples include communications that seek to intimidate, control, manipulate, put down or humiliate the recipient, These includes social networks; including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat.

Cyber bullying is not just confined to students but can occur between adults, including parents and teachers. In the case of parents making aggressive or uncomplimentary statements on social networking sites about teachers DECD has provided advice to principals in the policy document "Making our Sites Safer: E crime".

HARASSMENT –

Harassment is behaviour that targets an individual or group due to their identity, race, culture or ethnic origin; religion; physical characteristics; gender; sexual orientation; marital, parenting or economic status; age; ability or disability and that offends, humiliates, intimidates or creates a hostile environment. Harassment may be an ongoing pattern of behaviour, or it may be a single act.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT-

Sexual Harassment is unwelcome sexual conduct which makes a person feel offended, humiliated and /or intimidated, where that reaction to the conduct is reasonable in the circumstances. Sexual harassment can be a single incident, repeated or continuous, direct or indirect and take various forms.

Sexual Harassment is a legally recognised form of sex discrimination.

VIOLENCE-

Violence is the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against another person(s) that results in psychological harm, injury or in some cases death.

Violence may involve provoked or unprovoked acts and can be a single incident, a random act or can occur over any time. This may constitute an assault, which is a police matter.

DISCRIMINATION-

Discrimination occurs when people are treated less favourably than others because of their race, culture or ethnic origin; religion; physical characteristics; gender; sexual orientation; marital, parenting or economic status; age; ability or disability.

Not all distressing or hurtful behaviour is bullying

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.

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.

For further parent information, refer to **"Bullying and Harassment at School: Advice for parents and caregivers"** brochure available from Coonalpyn Primary School or DECD website – www.decd.sa.gov.au

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 that their actions have on others.

SCHOOL ACTIONS IN RESPONSE 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 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 case of assault, the police may be involved.)

RESPONSE CHART

1. INITIAL INCIDENT

- a) Reported
- b) Counselling by a staff member
- c) Letter may be sent home to Parents / Caregivers of victim and bully
- d) Consequences (if needed) for bully

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

3. BULLYING CONTINUES

- a) Parent / Caregivers attend meeting at school
- b) Consequences for bully may lead to suspension from school
- c) Additional external assistance may be sought for the bully
- 9) Exclusion from school if bully is unwilling / unable to change behaviour

In the case of alleged teacher to student bullying, the grievance procedure should be used. Either speak to the teacher or consult with the Principal

Ratified : November 1st 2017

Review Date: 2020