



Woronora River Public School

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Preventing and Responding To Student Bullying Policy

Woronora River Public School does not tolerate bullying in any form. All members of the school learning community are committed to ensuring a safe and caring environment which promotes personal growth and positive self-esteem for all.

The policy applies to all student bullying behaviour, including cyberbullying. This policy also applies outside of school hours where there is a clear and close relationship between the school and the conduct of the student.

1. What is 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.

Cyberbullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies.

Bullying can involve humiliation, domination, intimidation, victimisation and all forms of harassment.

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

Bullying is a deliberate act of aggression causing embarrassment, fear, pain or discomfort to another.

Bullying is an abuse of power and is planned and organised.

2. Some examples of bullying include:

- any form of physical violence such as hitting, pushing or spitting on others
- interfering with another's property by stealing, hiding, damaging or destroying it
- using offensive names, teasing or spreading rumours about others or their families
- using put-downs, belittling others' abilities and achievements
- writing offensive notes or graffiti about others
- making degrading comments about another's culture, colour, religious or social background
- hurtfully excluding others from a group
- making suggestive comments or other forms of sexual abuse
- ridiculing another's appearance
- forcing others to act against their will
- inappropriate emails, texting, phone calls or social networking using technology.

3. How students may be effected if they are bullied:

- may feel frightened, unsafe, embarrassed, angry or unfairly treated
- work, sleep and ability to concentrate may suffer
- relationships with family, friends and staff may deteriorate

- may feel confused, helpless and not know what to do about the problem
- may not want to come to school.

4. What do we do to prevent bullying at Woronora River Public School?

Schools exist in a society where incidents of bullying behaviour may occur. Preventing and responding to bullying behaviour in learning and working environments is a shared responsibility of all staff, students, parents, caregivers and members of the wider school community.

All members of the school community contribute to the preventing bullying by modelling and promoting appropriate behaviour and respectful relationships.

As a school learning community we will not allow cases of bullying to go unreported but will speak up.

5. Responsibilities of the school

School staff has a responsibility to:

- respect and support students
- model and promote appropriate behaviour
- have knowledge of school and departmental policies relating to bullying behaviour
- respond in a timely manner to incidents of bullying according to the school's Anti-bullying Plan.

In addition, teachers have a responsibility to:

- provide curriculum and pedagogy that supports students to develop an understanding of bullying and its impact on individuals and the broader community.

Students have a responsibility to:

- behave appropriately, respecting individual differences and diversity
- behave as responsible digital citizens
- follow the school Anti-bullying Plan
- behave as responsible bystanders
- report incidents of bullying according to their school Anti-bullying Plan.

Parents and caregivers have a responsibility to:

- support their children to become responsible citizens and to develop responsible on-line behaviour
- be aware of the school Anti-bullying Plan and assist their children in understanding bullying behaviour
- support their children in developing positive responses to incidents of bullying consistent with the school Anti-bullying Plan
- report incidents of school related bullying behaviour to the school
- work collaboratively with the school to resolve incidents of bullying when they occur.

All members of the school community have the responsibility to:

- model and promote positive relationships that respect and accept individual differences and diversity within the school community
- support the school's Anti-bullying Plan through words and actions
- work collaboratively with the school to resolve incidents of bullying when they occur.

6. What needs to be done when bullying occurs?

School staff

As a school we need to be flexible and assess each incident as it occurs.

This may involve:

- providing, depending on the severity, first offending bullies with the opportunity to modify their behaviour
- counselling
- face to face interview using restorative practices
- talk with a mentor
- discussions between staff and parents
- time out/detention/suspension/expulsion.

The school will keep detailed records for future referencing.

If cyberbullying occurs outside of school hours the parents of all students involved will be notified and requested to deal with the issue separately to school consequences.

School students

As a student if you are bullied you can:

- ignore the teasing, leave the situation and report the incident
- share the problem with somebody in your network
- ask the bully why she/he is doing it
- let the bully know she/he is making you feel bad
- try and include the bully in friendly activities.

The school recommends that parents:

- watch for signs of distress in their child, e.g. unwillingness to attend school, a pattern of headaches, stomach aches, missing equipment, requests for extra money, damaged clothes or bruising
- take an active interest in their child's social life and acquaintances
- monitor their child's technology usage
- advise their child to tell a staff member about the incident
- inform the school if bullying is suspected
- keep a written record (who, what, when, where, why, how)
- do not encourage their child to retaliate
- talk to their child about the consequences of retaliation
- communicate to their child that parental involvement, if necessary, will be appropriate for the situation
- be willing to attend interviews at the school if their child is involved in any bullying incident
- be willing to inform the school of any cases of suspected bullying even if their own child is not directly affected.

The Principal will report annually to the school community on the effectiveness of the school's Anti-bullying Plan.