

Kings Park Primary School



STUDENT SERVICES

BULLYING POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT ON BULLYING

At Kings Park Primary School we are committed to providing a school environment in which everybody feels valued, respected and safe and where individual differences are appreciated, understood and accepted. Everybody has a right to enjoy their time at school. Kings Park Primary School community does not tolerate bullying or harassment in any form.

Bullying can be described as being:

- **a repeated and unjustifiable behaviour intended to cause fear, distress or harm to another**
- **conducted by a more powerful individual or group against a less powerful individual who is unable to effectively resist**

Bullying Behaviour includes:

- ❑ **Physical Bullying** – pushing, shoving, fighting, hitting, slapping, pinching, punching, strangling, spitting, biting, scratching, throwing thing, taking or damaging someone's property, invasion of personal space and encouraging another person to harm someone
- ❑ **Verbal Bullying** – mean and hurtful name calling, offensive language, put downs, teasing, threatening, demanding money or possessions, spreading rumours, or making comments about physical characteristics or family members
- ❑ **Visual Bullying** – offensive notes, graffiti, threatening or obscene gestures
- ❑ **Emotional Bullying** – deliberately excluding someone from the group or activity, intimidating others, removing, hiding or damaging other's belongings
- ❑ **Cyber bullying** - through the Internet means that bullying can occur through emails, chat rooms, discussion groups, instant messaging, and web pages. Such bullying can include teasing; being made fun of, spreading rumours and lies, sending unwanted messages and emails, as well as defamation.

Online Education

Through discussions and tutorials students will be made aware of the rights, responsibilities and privileges associated with online education.

Class discussions and tutorials will address the following issues:

- The Internet offers enormous benefits for teaching and learning, but just as in the real world, the virtual world of the Internet involves some risks.
- Cyber bullying and harassment is an issue to be addressed.
- Cyber bullying through the Internet means that bullying can occur through emails, chat rooms, discussion groups, instant messaging, and web pages. Such bullying can

include teasing; being made fun of, spreading rumours and lies, sending unwanted messages and emails, as well as defamation.

- Behaving responsibly online means students are made aware of:
 - how to communicate appropriately
 - how to treat others
 - respecting people's property (In this case intellectual eg copyright)
 - visiting appropriate sites

- Behaving safely online means students are made aware of:
 - Protecting privacy and personal information
 - Selecting appropriate sites & spaces to work and contribute
 - Protecting the privacy of others (This can be sharing personal information or images)
 - Being proactive in letting someone know if there is something "not quite right". At home this would be a parent or guardian, at school a teacher.

- **All forms of bullying, whether it be physical, verbal, visual or cyber will not be tolerated at any level at Kings Park Primary School**

Procedures for inappropriate behaviour:

- Reminder of the rights, responsibilities and privileges associated with online education - warning given
- Suspension of internet access for a one week period
- Repeat offence – termination of internet access

Kings Park Primary School will provide a supportive environment which encourages positive relationships between all members of the school community to

- promote student's sense of concern and responsibility by organizing preventative support systems [refer to Guidelines section]
- provide positive role models
- offer a range of recreational activities
- provide incursions for students and staff to support this policy
- arrange intensive 1-1 or small group sessions for students in conflict resolution, anger management, assertiveness training and self protective behaviours

Teacher Responsibilities

- adopt positive classroom management strategies and incorporate anti bullying messages in the curriculum
- be familiar with the school's bullying and behaviour management policies and procedures
- be models of caring and tolerant behaviour
- in the first weeks of the school year, discuss with the class their rights, responsibilities and the non acceptance of bullying and create an agreed set of classroom expectations

- inform parents of behaviour expectations as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct
- engage students in class discussions or in small group meetings to monitor concerns and class behaviour
- implement lessons to develop resilience to bullying and actively counteract inappropriate behaviour
- respond immediately to any reported incidents of bullying and report incident to Principal or Assistant Principal
- be obviously present during recess and lunchtimes when on duty as a deterrent to possible incidents of bullying

Student Responsibilities

- to understand and act in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct
- refuse to participate in or watch bullying occur
- report a bullying incident to an adult
- support other students by treating everyone fairly and with respect
- understand that asking for help is always okay for themselves or someone else

We use the 'Shared Concern Approach' to deal with incidents of inappropriate behaviour, including bullying. Briefly this approach consists of the following:

1. Individual meetings are held with each of the students involved in a bullying situation eg. the student or students bullying, the student being bullied and any bystanders who may have seen what was happening.
2. Each student is asked about the incidents and to suggest ways in which he/she could help improve the situation.
3. The student being bullied is also given the opportunity to discuss what happened and encouraged to think of ways to improve the situation.
4. Follow up meetings, discussions and planning give students the opportunity to change and improve their attitudes and behaviour and to put these into practise in a supportive environment.

At Kings Park Primary School it is everyone's responsibility to take the necessary steps to prevent bullying behaviour.

The school will not tolerate any action that undermines a person's right to feel safe, respected and to learn.

Using this approach we are committed to the safety and well being of all students.