

Seacliff Primary School

Countering Bullying Policy

What is bullying?

Bullying is deliberate, hurtful behaviour to repeatedly hurt, threaten or embarrass someone. **Conflicts** or fights between equals and single incidents are not defined as bullying. Bullying impacts negatively on the victim's safety and well being.

Cyberbullying – In the 21st century this is becoming more prevalent with student access to computers, mobile phones and cameras. Parents need to be aware of the cyber bully who has the wilful, conscious desire to repeatedly hurt, threaten or embarrass someone using electronic media.

For example, when a person repeatedly:

- Calls another hurtful names
- Hits, punches or kicks
- Threatens someone
- Teases in a nasty way
- Singles out someone for unfair treatment
- Picks on others
- Interferes with others' property
- Deliberately ignores or avoids a person
- Spreads rumours about others
- Continually excludes someone from their peer group
- Uses electronic media such as mobile phones, facebook, email, SMS, to interfere with peoples' rights

What to do:

Report bullying

If you are bullied or you know someone who is being bullied, report it. Report the bullying as soon as it happens. Do

not ignore it. If you ignore bullying it may get worse.

a) If you are bullied

1. Tell the person who is bullying to stop. State clearly that the behaviour is unwelcome and hurtful.
2. Seek help. Talk about it with someone you trust. This may include a friend or a student mediator. There is nothing so awful that we can't talk about it with someone.
3. Report it to a teacher or the principal/deputy principal. Feel confident that any incident can be solved.
4. If you experience bullying on the way home from school, tell your parents.

b) If you know someone is being bullied

A bystander who observes or hears a bullying incident is considered part of the problem if they don't act.

1. Care enough to do something about it whether it affects you personally or not.
2. Support the person being bullied.
3. Don't stand by and watch – get help from an adult
4. Show that you and your friends disapprove of bullying.
5. If you know of bullying tell a teacher, the principal/deputy principal.

What will happen if you are bullying students?

1. You will be counselled by your classroom teacher. You will be given the opportunity to resolve the situation and discuss the issue with the person you bullied. The situation will be recorded by your teacher.
2. If you persist in bullying you will be referred to the principal or deputy

principal for counselling and to develop a solution to the problem. Your parents will be contacted and the situation will be recorded.

3. If you are found to be bullying again a consequence will be applied. This may include:
 - parent interview
 - counselling program
 - loss of privileges
 - restricted play
 - in-school suspension during recess and lunch time
 - suspension
 - cyberbullying is an offense that may require police intervention
4. If bullying continues your parents will be called to discuss further actions.

A severity clause will be used to skip steps for serious incidents.

Rights and Responsibilities

At this school everyone has a right to feel safe and valued. All members of the school community have a responsibility to ensure this happens.

Rights

To feel safe
To learn
To be respected
To be valued

Responsibilities

To respect yourself
To respect others learning
To respect others
To support others

It is your right and your responsibility to report bullying, whether it happens to you or to someone else.

Parents can help by taking an active interest

□ IN YOUR CHILD'S SOCIAL LIFE

□ IN WHAT IS HAPPENING AT SCHOOL

□ ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD

- to bring friends home
- to accept and tolerate differences in others

□ BUILD HIS OR HER SELF CONFIDENCE

- by recognising and affirming his/her positive qualities
- by valuing them for who they are

□ DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD

- the school's expectations
- ways to respond if his/her rights are infringed or if your child is infringing

□ ENCOURAGE CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSES

- physical bullying or persistent teasing should be reported
- hitting back or retaliating with name calling won't solve the problem

□ SET AN EXAMPLE

- be firm but not aggressive in setting limits
- be positive in the things you say and do

□ BE ALERT FOR SIGNS OF DISTRESS

- unwillingness to attend school
- dropping off in the quality of school work

- damaged clothing or frequent loss of personal property
- loss of confidence or mood changes
- withdrawal from social activities

□ ACT

- if your child is being bullied, or is bullying. Discuss the issue with the class teacher or the principal/deputy principal

□ OBSERVE

- what they are viewing on the internet
- use of phone and internet
- the legal age for being a Facebook member is 13 years of age.



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At Seacliff Primary School we want all students to feel safe.

Our school does not tolerate bullying and expects all members of the school community to treat each other with respect and dignity.

ADDRESS: Barwell Avenue,

PHONE: 8296 1950

FAX: 8296 5729

EMAIL: principal@seacliff.sa.edu.au