Mayrung Public School

Anti Bullying Policy

Updated 2009
To recognize harassing and bullying behaviours and understand why and how they happen in order to deal with them effectively and prevent future incidents.

Bullying is anti-social. It has no place at Mayrung Public School.

Mayrung Public School is committed to providing a safe and caring environment, which fosters respect for others.

It is the responsibility of every member of the school community to be proactive in ensuring that bullying is not tolerated.

This policy will:
- define bullying,
- identify strategies for all members of the school community to prevent and combat bullying within the school,
- outline the school's process of responding to bullies and bullying.

Bullying involves the inappropriate use of power by one or more person over another less powerful person or group. It can be verbal, physical, social or psychological. It is intentional and ongoing.

Bullying can take many forms.

**Physical**
- hitting, kicking, punching,
- pushing, shoving, spitting, throwing objects, scratching, tripping,
- making rude gestures,
- taking or damaging something which belongs to someone else,
- forcing others to hand over food, money or something else which belongs to them,
- making someone do something they don’t want to do.

**Verbal**
- name calling,
- teasing,
- threatening,
- making fun of someone because of their appearance, physical characteristics, gender or cultural background (including racist and sexist comments),
- making fun of someone’s actions.
Psychological
- excluding others from the game or group,
- spreading untrue stories about others,
- being sent hurtful notes,
- having graffiti written about them on desks, books, computers etc,
- ignoring,
- cyber bullying (hurtful SMS or email, inappropriate use of camera phone).

Social
- spreading rumours,
- Exclusion: deliberately leaving someone out of an activity or ignoring/avoiding someone.
- stalking,
- negative body language,
- hiding or damaging possessions.

Aim
To adopt a whole school approach to the management of bullying.

Outcomes
- the school is an environment where everyone is free from harassment,
- everyone has the responsibility to support more vulnerable peers,
- classrooms are free from ridicule, harassment and isolation,
- bullies are encouraged to change their behaviour by processes of support and education,
- cooperation and tolerance between all members of the school community will be promoted,
- all students will display positive social skills,
- Students will report if they or others are being bullied,
- improved communication between students, parents and staff to develop procedures and practices to successfully manage incidents of bullying.

Policy Implementation
Bullying is antisocial. It has no place at Mayrung Public School. It is the responsibility of every member of the school community to be proactive in ensuring that bullying behaviour is rejected.

At Mayrung Public School we will:
- openly talk about bullying - what it is, how it affects us and what we can do about it,
- teach our children the skills that will build their self-esteem and empower them to take the responsibility for themselves - and give them the opportunity to practise these skills,
- formulate a policy that clearly states what actions we will take to deal with bullying behaviour,
- support victims.
We will do this using the following strategies:
- explicit teaching - activities focusing on social skills, raising self esteem and addressing conflict resolution are a part of the school curriculum in Health and Personal Development, Bullying Units taught in conjunction with the Life Ed program, Student Parliament and Class Meetings.
- Our Peer Support Program provides leadership opportunities for every student and thereby builds self esteem. It provides a forum for individual and group concerns and encourages every student to contribute to making our school a safe and happy place.
- Class Meetings provide the primary students with the opportunity to speak up about problems and provide solutions.
- newsletters provide explanations of what bullying is, and remind the school community that bullying is not acceptable,
- assembly reminders,
- explicit teaching of School Values - using established shared thoughts of rights, responsibilities and acceptable behaviour.
- provide professional learning for teaching and non - teaching staff, members of the community.
- distribute Anti Bullying - A Guide for Families pamphlet to the school community.

Reporting of Bullying
Children and their parents can report incidents of bullying to any teacher or the principal. The staff will be responsible for implementing the program and ensuring that incidents of bullying are dealt with in a manner consistent with the policy.

Responsibilities

Responsibilities of Staff
- to model appropriate behaviours at all times,
- to deal with all reported and observed incidents of bullying as set out in this policy,
- to ensure classrooms are safe places,
- ensure the victims of bullying are supported,
- treat reports of bullying seriously and take appropriate action.

Responsibilities of Students:
- to report if they are being bullied or if they see someone else being bullied - (responsible telling)
- to help someone who is being bullied,
- to refrain from bullying others,
- to actively participate in bullying lessons and programs,
- to attempt to resolve issues using the strategies they have been taught in the classroom.

Responsibilities of Parents:
- to watch for signs that their child may be bullied or is bullying,
- to speak to someone on staff if their child is being bullied, or they suspect that it is happening,
- to reinforce the rules and strategies being taught and practiced at school.
The policy requires ongoing evaluation using the following methods:

- noting if there has been a change in the atmosphere of our school through interview, observation, surveying, discussion etc.
- follow up with parents who have reported incidents of bullying to see if the problem has been resolved,
- review strategies to see that they are effective in reducing incidents of bullying at Mayrung Public School.

Evaluation

Updated and revised July 2009
Carolyn Howard - Principal
What is Bullying?

Bullying involves the inappropriate use of power by one or more persons over another less powerful person or group. It can be verbal, social, psychological, physical, or emotional.
Victims

Anybody can become the victim of bullying. All it takes is to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Bullies try to justify what they are doing by emphasizing that the victim is different in some way. This may be a real difference which makes them especially vulnerable. However, if there is no real difference then the bullies may invent one. Our school tackles topics about differences in class lessons. This helps to reduce bullying.

Indicators of Bullying

There is no foolproof way of knowing that a child is being bullied. Physical injuries are rare. Unwillingness to go to school. Being bullied. Physical injuries are rare. Trust your instincts. If you are worried discuss your worries frankly with your child. Whatever you do, don’t rush to confront the parents of a child who is bullying yours. Always try to work with the school. Arguments amongst parents usually make the bullying worse rather than better.

Parents

Stay calm. Walk away from the bullying situation to a safe place. Tell an adult.

Be assertive, not aggressive.

Act confidently.

New

This is what the bullies are doing.

Never respond with violence or aggression.

Avoid the bully.

Do something positive.

Tell your child that physical or verbal retaliation is not the answer.

Release to say what is wrong.

Come home regularly with damaged clothes or possessions.

Avoid schoolwork.

Become withdrawn.

Lose interest in social activities with peers.

Tell your child that physical or verbal retaliation is not the answer.

Reduce bullying.

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