



Spencer Park Primary School Bullying Policy (2022)

RATIONALE

Every school is expected to have a safe, supportive, respectful and positive learning environment free from bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence, so student wellbeing and academic outcomes are maximised.

DEFINITION

Bullying is an ongoing misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm.

Bullying can be:

- Verbal
- Physical
- Social
- In person
- Online
- Obvious
- Hidden
- Done by an individual or a group

Bullying might involve:

- A student not wanting to come to school
- A student changing their route to school or being frightened to walk/bus to school
- A student not doing as well on assessments or with their learning tasks
- Changes in sleep patterns
- Changes in eating patterns
- A student frequently having tears, anger, and/or mood swings
- Taking money from home/other students
- Unexplained bruises, cuts and/or scratches
- Loses or brings home damaged belongings or clothing
- Arrives home hungry

WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL DO TO PREVENT BULLYING?

Spencer Park Primary School engages a range of strategies to prevent bullying, including, but not limited to:

- Duty teachers wearing high-vis vests when in the playground
- Structured game play during breaks that are supported by personnel
- Library is open and supervised at lunch breaks
- Constable Care presentations annually, term 1
- Whole-school values discussed and rewarded weekly
- Classroom behaviour expectations developed yearly and regularly reviewed
- Where necessary, 1:1 social skills development program

WHAT DO WE ADVISE CHILDREN TO DO IF THEY ARE BEING BULLIED?

- If they are bullied to their face, tell the bully to stop and walk away
- Find somewhere safe and get help from a trusted adult
- Don't respond to online bullying
- When online, protect themselves online by unfriending the bully or using privacy settings to block them.
- Do not react or retaliate.

WHAT DO WE ADVISE CHILDREN TO DO IF THEY ARE BEING CYBERBULLIED?

- Don't respond to the message or image.
- Save the evidence as a screen shot if you wish to use it as a part of dealing with the bully.
- Block the sender and delete the message.
- Report the situation to the website or internet service provider.
- Talk to trusted people – friends, adults, teachers, parents and police if necessary.

WHAT WE ENCOURAGE ALL STUDENTS WITHIN THE SCHOOL TO DO

All children who are not bullied but are aware of bullying should decide to:

- Speak to the bully – “That’s not fair, stop that.”
- Support the person being bullied
 - “Come and play with us.”
 - “Can I help?”
 - “Are you okay?”
- Speak to a teacher
- Talk to your parent about the situation

Onlookers to bullying, who do not act in a supportive way, are treated as part of the bullying problem.

Key message given to all staff and students

- It's OK to tell someone you know is being bullied.
- Everyone has the right to feel safe all of the time.

All staff and students will work together to build an environment free from bullying.

WHAT ACTION WILL THE SCHOOL TAKE IF AN INCIDENT OF BULLYING OCCURS?

Spencer Park Primary School will support students, teachers, parents and others in maintaining a safe and non-threatening environment in our school. All people within the school environment are encouraged to report and act upon situations involving bullying.

In most cases

- A conversation, mediated by an adult, will take place between parties
This is an opportunity for the victim to articulate their grievance and ask for the bullying to stop and an opportunity for the bully to apologise.
- Parents are notified of the outcome
- Classroom teachers monitor over time

Consequences will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

RESOURCES

- www.bullyingnoway.gov.au
- [School Bullying PowerPoint](#)