

RAYMOND TERRACE PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is **repeated** incidents involving:

- An **abuse of power** of one child over another child, or
- a group of children over a child or children.

These might be:

- Verbal: the child is called names, put down, threatened.
- Physical: the child is hit, tripped, kicked or belongings are stolen or damaged.
- Social: the child is left out, ignored, or rumours are spread.
- Psychological: the child is stalked or given dirty looks.
- Cyber: all the above (except physically)

POLICY AIMS:

- To ensure that Raymond Terrace Public School is a happy, healthy and safe environment for all.
- To build a strong supportive culture, so that bullying and anti-social behaviour is not acceptable under any circumstances.
- To develop a school environment that promotes tolerance, respect and an acceptance of difference in others.

EXPECTATIONS OF STAFF, STUDENTS AND PARENTS:

- That the incidence of bullying will decrease with increased awareness of how bullying affects our society.
- That bullying behaviour is not acceptable and should be reported.
- That the school provide a happy, healthy and safe school environment.
- Students, teachers and parents need to know what they are expected to do if they are aware of bullying.
- That the school can make a difference.

POSSIBLE WHOLE-SCHOOL STRATEGIES:

- Surveys with students, staff and parents identifying bullying behaviour
- All reported bullying recorded and monitored
- Children are encouraged to report bullying
- K-6 You Can Do It Program
- 007 Program inc 'Help Desk'
- Co-Operative Learning techniques within the classroom
- Active identification of students requiring intervention
- School Counsellor intervention
- Discussion of bullying in assemblies
- Regular articles in the school newsletter
- Teaching of appropriate playground activities
- Anti-Bullying Policy to be distributed annually
- Buddy Program – Kindergarten students buddied with older children as required
- Learning Support Team to provide additional support to students in need
- Principal to have an open door policy. Parents, staff and students know that they will be given time if there is a problem.

CLASSROOM STRATEGIES:

- Implementation of YCDI Program
- Class rules negotiated every year with teacher and students
- Teaching of cooperative play
- See Whole School Strategies listed above

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Staff Members:

- will act as role models of caring and tolerant behaviour.
- will listen to students' reports of bullying and will then:
 1. take steps to protect the victim from further harm.
 2. act to stop the behaviour recurring.
 3. document incidents of bullying and report it to stage leaders.

Students:

- will tell a teacher and give full details of the incident.
- will report incidents of bullying to a teacher, parent, responsible adult or peer.

Parents:

- will listen sympathetically to reported bullying.
- will inform the school if bullying is suspected.
- will work with the school in seeking a solution.

PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH BULLYING BEHAVIOUR:

- Reassure the student that the school does not tolerate bullying. Support the student.
- Investigate all reported incidents of bullying.
- All incidents of bullying to be documented.
- Teachers may deal with bullying in specific social skills lessons.
- Assistant Principal/Principal to be made aware of bullying incidents and report to whole-staff at regular meetings.
- Logged onto Sentral
- Counselling is undertaken (victim and bully).
- Parents notified of bullying incident.
- Teacher/Executive member/Parent/Counsellor work with students involved.
- Follow up after bullying incident has been resolved.
- Procedures for dealing with bullying behaviour implemented as part of the school's Discipline Policy.
- Continue dissemination of information about bullying in newsletters and at school assemblies.

EVALUATION:

- Student, staff and parent surveys to evaluate bullying within the school.
- Safety audit to indicate safe/unsafe areas on a map of the school.
- Monitor data related to bullying.