

EDWARDSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL



Anti-Bullying Policy

Rationale

Edwardstown Primary School provides a safe, inclusive, supportive and ordered learning environment that does not tolerate bullying, harassment and violence. Bullying, including cyber bullying, harassment and violence, is not acceptable in this school and will be dealt with seriously and expediently.

The school will work with the school community and other services and agencies to support its students in being responsible and productive members of this community.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is when someone keeps picking on another student repeatedly and tries to make them feel bad. They may say or do many mean and hurtful things, make fun of them, try to stop them from joining in or encourage others dislike them. Conflict or fights between equals and single incidents, although hurtful, do not constitute bullying.

Bullying can include:

- Physical Bullying - contact with somebody that involves hurting or touching them.
- Verbal Bullying - saying rude things and calling someone mean, hurtful names.
- Emotional Bullying - giving someone a hard time because of what they look like, your work, your family and friends and other things that hurt you inside.
- Cyber Bullying - teasing or hurting people over the internet or mobile devices

Reporting & Responsibilities

Students are reluctant to report incidents of bullying so, when a student or parent reports an incident, this is taken seriously. Other sources may be a school staff member or even a member of the public.

When students are bullied they should:

- Firmly tell the bullies to stop
- Walk away
- Get friends to help
- Tell the teacher on duty

The positive influence of peers in cases of bullying cannot be underestimated. If students see others being bullied they should:

- Firmly tell the bullies to stop or leave the person alone
- Get a teacher to help

If bullying continues the student or their parents should talk, in the first instance to the class teacher and reporting of an incident should occur as soon after the incident as possible. This gives the school the best opportunity to follow up the incident and intervene. If the incident is severe or unresolved, reports should be made to the Principal. In this situation the Principal will:

- Talk with the student involved
- Work with the bully to help them understand the situation
- Work with the bully to help them repair the damage done by their bullying. This will usually include a restorative meeting with the bullied student
- The consequences of the bullying may also include:
 - Talking to parents
 - Providing the bully with time out of the yard
 - And in severe cases or those involving actual physical harm, suspension from school

When reporting bullying parents and students may find it helpful to write down the details of the incident as a first step. A face-to-face discussion is usually the best way of reporting an incident and, if students or parents are dissatisfied with the outcome, they can follow up with a written statement with the request for a further meeting. If seriously concerned about the manner in which the school is dealing with an incident, a parent can contact DECD Parent Complaints Unit (1800 677 435) for support.

Strategies for Minimising Bullying

Monitoring for Bullying

The Principals and Teachers monitor incidents of bullying and identify patterns amongst individuals and cohorts of students. These patterns are discussed and strategies initiated to address the specific issues.

Formal surveys about the incidence of bullying are completed twice a year by Year 3 to 7 students. A 'What's your problem?' box is located in the Resource Centre for students to register reports about social and bullying issues. These reports are addressed regularly by school leaders.

School Council receives regular updates in relation to school bullying data and trends and any anti-bullying programs/initiatives in place or being considered. This information is reported to the general school community via the newsletter which is on the school's website for easy access by parents.

Programs Provided to Minimise Bullying

Students who feel part of the school community, and understand and empathise with each other are less likely to be involved in bullying others. Many programs and initiatives focus on developing in students a sense of belonging, collaboration and community responsibility. Some of these offerings include:

- Student Leaders and SRC
- Action Teams for Years 6 & 7 including services to the school, to fellow students and to the environment
- The ECA (Edwardstown Community Award) for community actions
- Achievement of Excellence Awards offered infrequently to students who perform selfless and community minded actions
- Buddy Classes that involve older and younger students working together

Specific programs are provided to reinforce the collaborative nature of our community and minimise bullying these include:

- Programs Achieve / Bounce Back for younger students
- Play is the Way
- An annual review of the student bullying brochure by SRC
- Specific discussions about bullying – the definition and student actions to counter bullying

All new staff are inducted in anti-bullying strategies and are trained with 'Play is the Way'. Parents who are new to the school receive a bullying brochure and advice about school programs dealing with bullying. A copy of the bullying brochure is located on the school's website.