

WPS – POSITIVE **BEHAVIOURS POLICY**

Incorporating Bullying & Harassment

For Period:
March 2014 – March 2018

Rationale

Wandong Primary School promotes the development of positive behaviours to ensure that students feel happy and safe at school. The School promotes the development of a positive culture where negative and or bullying behaviour is not accepted. All students will have:

- the right to be respected by others,
- the right to learn,
- the right to feel safe and supported in their environment,
- the responsibility to adhere to the student engagement policy.

Aims

- To reinforce within the school community that positive behaviours are encouraged and negative and or bullying behaviors are unacceptable.
- To inform the community as to how positive behaviours are encouraged and acknowledged.
- To educate the school community about what constitutes bullying behaviours.

Values

The philosophy is based on the follow school values:

- Care
- Honesty
- Responsibility
- Respect
- Friendship
- Doing Your Best

Positive Rewards

When positive behaviours are displayed the students are acknowledge by receiving

- Verbal praise
- House points
- Opportunity to work with a friend
- Stickers or prize box selection
- Gold Tickets
- Student of the Week award
- Opportunities for leadership roles

There will be times when students display behaviours contrary to those to which we aspire. These may constitute one off negative behaviours or ongoing bullying.

Bullying definition

Bullying is repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological aggressive behaviour by a person or group directed towards a less powerful person or group that is intended to cause harm, distress or fear.

Types of bullying behaviour

There are some specific types of bullying behaviour:

- verbal or written abuse - such as targeted name-calling or jokes, or displaying offensive posters
- violence - including threats of violence
- discrimination including racial discrimination - treating people differently because of their identity
- cyberbullying – Cyber bullying consists of covert, psychological bullying, conveyed through the electronic mediums such as mobile phones, web-logs and web-sites, on-line chat rooms, 'MUD' rooms (multi-user domains where individuals take on different characters) and Xangas (on-line personal profiles where some adolescents create lists of people they do not like). It is verbal (over the telephone or mobile phone), or written (flaming, threats, racial, sexual or homophobic harassment) using the various mediums available.

Negative Non Bullying Behaviours:

There are also some behaviours, which, although they might be unpleasant or distressing, are not bullying:

- mutual conflict - which involves a disagreement, but not an imbalance of power. Unresolved mutual conflict can develop into bullying if one of the parties targets the other repeatedly in retaliation.
- single-episode acts of nastiness or physical aggression, or aggression directed towards many different people, is not bullying
- social rejection or dislike is not bullying unless it involves deliberate and repeated attempts to cause distress, exclude or create dislike by others.

Strategies for the prevention of bullying:

- Classroom teachers will clarify the class and school rules and the school policy on Positive Behaviours through the Student Management Policy at the start of each year.
- Positive behaviour will be rewarded either privately or publicly.
- Classroom teachers will promote the use of the Wandong Primary School 'Three Step Process'.
- Teachers will actively promote the positive resolution of conflicts and appropriate responses to bullying behaviours through classroom programs that promote resilience, life and social skills, assertiveness, conflict resolution and problem solving.
- The school will provide cross year level learning opportunities to promote positive relationships (eg. Buddy Program and ThinkLinks Program).
- The school will provide structured lunchtime activities.
- Appropriate education programs and sessions will be made available to parents.
- The school will access the Student Welfare Officer and School Student Services Officer (SSSO) as necessary.

Process for responding to bullying:

- Refer to the Student Management Policy and folder for processes and supportive documentation.
- Refer to the Student Management Process.

Evaluation:

This Policy will be reviewed every three years as part of the Wandong Primary School cyclic policy review process.

CERTIFICATION

- This policy was adopted at the School Council meeting held at Wandong Primary School on 17th day of March 2014.
- Signed:
School Council President
- Signed:
School Principal