

Positive Relationships, Safe School Policy

Definition

Bullying is the ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm (Queensland Government, 2019).

What bullying may look like.

- Repeated verbal threats and cruelty, for example:
 - Name calling and persistent teasing
 - Ridiculing another person's appearance, physique or actions
 - Inciting a group to action
- Repeated physical threats and cruelty, for example:
 - Intimidating behaviours, individually or with a group
 - Non-verbal, including gestures
- Repeated indirect threats and cruelty, for example
 - Malicious gossip, spreading rumours
 - Deliberately hiding property
 - Ignoring and persistent exclusion from friendship circles, social exclusion
- Cyber, for example
 - Deliberate inappropriate use of mobile phones, texts messaging, social media and other internet communications

These actions demonstrate there has been a breakdown in relationships between students.

When bullying occurs what should be done?

By the students

- Initially use appropriate responses to solve the problem (eg. walk away)
- Seek intervention by reporting bullying to a teacher, support staff or parent
- Demonstrate positive bystander behaviour and tell a teacher, support staff or parent if they see another student being bullied
- Never ignore the situation

By the parent

- Model appropriate behaviour at all times
- Support the school's philosophy
- Watch for signs of your child being bullied
- Encourage your child to adopt the anti-bullying strategies taught at school and utilise STYMIE
- Instruct your child to immediately tell a teacher or support staff if they are bullied
- Inform the school immediately of any suspected bullying

By staff

- Model appropriate behaviour at all times
- Reassure the individual that bullying is unacceptable, listen to the student and ask what you can do to help
- Refer the incident if needed