

AVOCA BEACH PRIMARY SCHOOL ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Program Aims and Rationale

Avoca Beach Public School takes bullying very seriously and does not tolerate bullying in any form.

Avoca Beach Public School has written and implemented proactive strategies that teach students how to work and play in the classroom and playground. They provide teachers with a framework that is positive and consistent across grades K-6.

Definition

Bullying is a form of aggressive behaviour, which is usually hurtful and deliberate. It can devalue, frighten and isolate victims. The impacts on those engaging in bullying behaviours, the subjects of these behaviours and the effects of these behaviours on the bystander can have long-term ramifications.

Bullying appears in many forms. These include Physical, Verbal, Extortion, Gestures, Exclusion, Racial and Sexual bullying. Underlying most bullying behaviour is an abuse of power and a desire to intimidate and dominate.

Expectations of Staff

- Staff will engage the students in motivated lessons to teach them realistic strategies to deal with bullying behaviours encountered within the school.
- Staff will treat each report of bullying behaviour seriously, and act on the report promptly, following the school discipline procedures.
- Staff will model appropriate behaviours.

Expectations of Students

- Students are expected to respond incidences of bullying according the schools Anti Bullying Policy.
- With increased awareness and proactive teaching strategies, students will be better equipped to handle bullying behaviours with the help of peer and teacher intervention.
- That the incidence of bullying will decrease with increased awareness of how bullying affects the members of our society (the school community).

Expectations of Parents

- Parents will assist and support their child in developing positive responses to bullying behaviours consistent with the schools Anti Bullying Policy.
- Parents will assist and support all students of the school to effectively deal with bullying behaviours according the schools Anti Bullying Policy.

All sections of the school community have a role to play in preventing bullying and maintaining a happy and safe environment. The collective reinforcement that bullying behaviour is not acceptable and should be reported and dealt with promptly will ensure positive growth within the community.

Whole School Strategies

Avoca Beach Public School has developed quality classroom, playground and relationship programs that provide teachers with a framework that is positive and consistent across all grades K-6. Strategies for dealing with bullying behaviours are taught and implemented within the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education Syllabus 1999. These include:

- Anti-bullying lesson programs
- Drama and art activities
- Visiting performances
- Buddies programs
- Welfare meeting discussions
- Staff development days and courses to continue growth in this area.

Identifying Bullying Behaviours

Bullying is repeated act of physical or psychological oppression. Possible signs that identify a victim of bullying behaviours are:

- Unexplained cut and bruises
- Equipment or personal items damaged or stolen
- Complaints of poor health and headaches
- Poor sleep patterns, bad dreams and bed wetting
- Exhibits unusual mood swings and emotional outbursts
- Withdrawn from family and friends
- Having low self esteem
- Displays an unwillingness to go to school
- Changing friend groups frequently
- Wanting extra money without giving a reason
- Deterioration in school work and participation

Procedures for Dealing with Bullying Behaviour

Reporting

- Students are encouraged to record their incidents of bullying on standard forms and post them into class bully boxes. They may also report incidences verbally.
- Parents wishing to discuss bullying issues arising with their child/ren are able to contact the school and make an appointment with the class teacher and/or the principal or stage leader.

Dealing with Behaviours

- Teachers deal with the incidents as they arise following the schools School Discipline Policy.
- Bullies and the victims of bullying are provided with counselling as necessary.
- Incidents that continue are reported to parents and discussed at Welfare Meetings to create staff awareness and greater support for the students experiencing bullying behaviours.

Evaluation

The Avoca Beach Anti-Bullying Program is evaluated annually to ensure incidences of bullying in the school remain at a minimum.