



Anti-Bullying Procedure 511

DEFINITION

Bullying usually has four common features:

- It is deliberate
- It is repeated over a period of time
- It is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves
- It is difficult for those who bully to learn new social behaviours

There are three main types of bullying

PHYSICAL: includes hitting, kicking, taking belongings

VERBAL: includes name-calling, insulting remarks

INDIRECT: includes spreading nasty stories, excluding from groups

PREVENTION STRATEGIES

1. All members of the school community have responsibility to recognise bullying, to be able to define it and to be prepared to take action when they see it happening.
2. The definition of Bullying is re iterated in every class at the start of the school year and at mid year and the school is also to provide the following to help minimize bullying behaviour
 - Plenty of playground equipment to keep children occupied at interval and lunchtimes
 - Adequate playground supervision
 - Classroom, playground and bus discipline plans
 - Rewards for positive behaviours
 - Implementation of programmes, e.g. no blame approach to bullying/Friends for Life/Circle
 - Rainy day activities, e.g. indoor games, lunchtime videos, computer time
 - Areas for children to withdraw to and cool off should the need arise
 - Opportunity for children to stay indoors and read, play indoor games and complete work if they need to

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING AND ACTIONING BULLYING BEHAVIOUR

1. The school will implement the No Blame Approach to Bullying under the guidance of a senior teacher.
2. Children are taught within the class programmes to walk away from bullying behaviour and to report it immediately.
3. They are advised to report in one of four ways.
 - a. Approach a staff member or another adult directly
 - b. Speak to a friend or a member of their family
 - c. Approach the school Chaplain
4. All staff are to treat any report of bullying seriously and to take immediate action. Teachers are to record the complaint and lodge it with the principal.
5. Staff are to listen to the child or (parent or friend) and to make further enquiries if necessary.
6. The pupil is to be assured that they have acted correctly in reporting the bullying.
7. Under the guidance of a senior member of staff or the classroom teacher the student will take part in a No Blame Approach to Bullying peer discussion and a set of goals are agreed to.
8. The Principal must be kept informed of all developments as they occur and in some cases parents will be informed and involved.
9. If the situation is not resolved and the bullying continues then outside intervention will be sought from our School Chaplain or Support Agencies such as the RTLB, SES or the Public Health Nurse to assist staff and parents to form a strategy that may help the child to change the behaviour.
10. If the bullying stems from problems at home then Strengthening Families Intervention may be necessary.
11. In extreme cases where the bullying child is a danger to themselves and others, then the Board of Trustees will be informed and stand down and/or exclusion procedures may be instigated.

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