

Angle Vale Primary School

Building our bridge to the future

Learning to know
Learning to do
Learning to get along

Bullying and Harassment Policy

Our Vision

Angle Vale Primary School, with the school community, is committed to support all students to become successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens.

Our Mission

Each student has the opportunity to work in a safe, supportive and challenging learning environment, engage in learning programs that include the following capabilities:

- Critical and creative thinking
- Ethical understanding
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Intercultural understanding
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Personal and social capability

Our Aims

The Angle Vale Primary School's Anti-Bullying Policy provides a framework to ensure that:

- Students are learning and Educators are teaching.
- Staff and students work within a relational and restorative framework.
- Through explicit teaching and learning, we develop social responsibility and willingness to make amends, restore and strengthen relationships.
- Parents, students and staff work collaboratively to provide a consistent and just approach to development and management of student behaviour that takes into account the different needs of individual students.

Our Values

Confidence	Honesty	Respect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be prepared to try new things ● Know your choices ● Be prepared to seek help ● Be a positive role model ● Use power positively ● Show persistence ● Show resilience when things are down ● Have the confidence to show generosity to others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tell the truth ● Have a strong work ethic ● Be honest about giving effort ● Be proud of your achievements ● Take responsibility for your own actions ● A fair go for all ● Encourage others ● Develop trust in relationships with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Treat self, others and property with care and respect ● Be cooperative and include others ● Respect that school is a place of learning ● Communicate respectfully and use a person's name ● Look after school belongings but leave valuables at home ● Move around the school calmly

Objectives of this Policy

- All staff, students and parents should have an understanding of what constitutes bullying.
- All staff should know the Anti-Bullying Policy and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All students and parents should know the Anti-Bullying Policy and what they should do if bullying occurs.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Students & parents should be assured that they will be supported.
- Bullying of any description will not be tolerated.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of targeted, intentional and ongoing unwanted behaviour towards another person with the intention of hurting, either physically or emotionally. Bullying is not a 'one off' incident of harassment or teasing.

Bullying can be

- **Physical** - hitting, pushing, touching, rubbing, grabbing, spitting, taking /damaging property & using weapons.
- **Sexual** - unwelcome physical contact, written, or verbally abusive comments
- **Homophobic** focussing on a person's sexuality
- **Racist** - racial taunts about skin colour, culture or religion.
- **Emotional**- deliberately excluding, ignoring and disrespecting another person
- **Written** - written insults, threats, suggestive comments, name-calling, including using pictures, tags or words
- **Verbal** -name-calling, sarcasm, unfair criticism, spreading rumours or teasing
- **Face and Body Signals** - looks, stares, facial expressions, and signs
- **Indirect** - influencing or organising someone else to harass
- **Cyber** – misuse of social media, mobile phone, camera and video facilities.
- **Bystander** -watching bullying occur and not doing something to stop it and / or reporting it

Signs and Symptoms

Children who are being bullied at school may not always tell teachers about it. They may be afraid to tell, thinking that it may make the situation worse. This is why, parents or caregivers have an important part to play in helping your child and the school deal with bullying.

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- refuses to go to school and is finding excuses not to go (eg pretending to be sick).
- is frightened of walking to or from school / begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- begins to truant
- has unexplained cuts, bruises or scratches.
- has unexplained change of mood, tension or emotional distress or nightmares
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- has damaged or missing clothing / possessions.
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- begins to do poorly in school work
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- is nervous and jumpy when a cyber-message is received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

Why is it important to respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Students who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

As a school we have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Procedures – What will the school do when a report of bullying occurs?

- Report bullying incidents to staff immediately. Use the Grievance Procedures to report bullying.
- The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying will be investigated and documented.
- In serious cases parents will be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.
- The victim of bullying will be involved / informed of progress towards resolving the bullying issue.
- If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted.
- An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.

Outcomes – What will happen as an outcome of the investigation in to bullying?

We use a range of preventative, intervention and follow-up strategies to best deal with the situation by:

- Using Restorative Practices to repair and strengthen relationships
- Educating students on how to be confident and to cooperate and get along with others
- Encouraging students to bounce back and be resilient
- Teaching students about conflict resolution, anger management, problem solving and assertiveness training
- Other consequences may take place
- In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered
- After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

Prevention – What does the school do as part of the curriculum?

We will use a number of methods for helping students to prevent bullying. All teachers will use the Child Protection Curriculum as a reference for teaching students the skills to prevent, recognize and / or manage bullying. Teaching students about honesty, responsibility, respect and empathy

Need more information

- Parent Helpline: 1800222696
- Kids Helpline: 1800551800
- Child & Youth Health Parent Helpline: 1300364100
- www.bullyingnoway.com.au
- www.kidshelp.com.au
- www.racismnoway.com.au
- www.beyondblue.org.au
- www.netalert.net.au

This policy is guided by
Cossey Review into procedures and processes relating to bullying and violence (2011)