

Shellharbour Public School

Anti Bullying Plan



Revised June, 2010

Policy Revision Date: June 1, 2010

Signed: _____

Distribution: Parents and Citizens Association
Staff

Shellharbour Public School

Anti-Bullying Plan

Revised 2009

Plan Statement

- Shellharbour Public School is an inclusive environment, where diversity is affirmed and individuality is respected. Every person has the right to be treated with dignity and respect and enjoy positive relationships with all members of the school community.
- Quality education can only be delivered in a safe, secure and supportive setting.
- Partnerships within the school community are valued and central to the learning and development of students, their self – esteem, confidence and success of this school as a learning community.

Bullying, in any form will not be tolerated at Shellharbour Public School

Definition

- Bullying can be defined as intentional, repeated behaviour by an individual or group of individuals that causes upset, distress, undue pressure, hurt or fear.
- Bullying involves an intentional and willful misuse of power in relationships.
- Bullying can involve direct or indirect harassment, humiliation, violent or physical domination and / or intimidation of others.

Bullying can be:

Verbal	Physical	Social	Psychological
e.g. name calling, teasing, abuse, putdowns, ridicule, insults, threats, extortion	eg hitting, punching, kicking, scratching, tripping, spitting	e.g. ignoring, excluding, ostracising, alienating, making rude, cruel or crude gestures. inappropriate comments about ethnicity, language, religion, gender, and culture	e.g spreading rumours, dirty looks, hiding or damaging possessions, inappropriate notes, graffiti, letters, phone messages, SMS, email and misrepresentation

Statement of Purpose

Students attend school to participate in quality education that enables them to become life long learners who will create a positive future for themselves and their communities. Bullying impedes teaching, learning, individual development and student welfare. Students, teachers, parents and caregivers will work collaboratively together to create a safe, secure and happy environment that is free from all forms of bullying. Positive relationships will be promoted. Individual differences will be accepted and respected. Students, teachers, parents and caregivers may work collaboratively to resolve incidents of bullying.

Strategies for Dealing with Bullying Behaviours

Students have the right to:

- be treated with courtesy, kindness and respect
- express feelings and opinions assertively
- work and play in an atmosphere of harmony and cooperation
- feel secure and to be safe in a caring and supportive environment
- expect that school rules are fair, consistently implemented and respect the rights of all involved
- be valued for their individuality, including that of race, gender, cultural, physical or intellectual diversity

Students will:

- know that their concerns will be responded to by school staff
- be provided with appropriate support
- take part in teaching and learning activities that address Key Learning Areas in Personal Development, Health and Safety, Human Society and its Environment/COGs, Child Protection, Social Skill and Values Programs
- actively engage in teaching and learning in areas such as gender equity, anti discrimination, anti bullying, relationships, peer support, leadership programs etc
- report incidences of bullying to school staff

Students have a responsibility to:

- deal honestly with staff over notifications of issues.
- treat others with courtesy, kindness and respect
- listen to others with mutual respect
- maintain a safe and secure school environment
- refuse to become involved in instances of bullying
- model and support school rules, behaving appropriately
- develop responsibility for their own actions
- value others, for their individual differences
- work to achieve their personal best whilst allowing others to do the same.

Parents and caregivers have a responsibility to:

- support their child in all aspects of their learning
- be appropriate role models and model appropriate behaviour
- be aware of the school anti bullying policy
- assist their child in understanding appropriate behaviour
- support their child in developing positive and constructive responses to incidents of bullying and not encourage retaliation
- support the school and students dealing with bullying incidents positively
- inform the school if bullying is suspected
- encourage their child to talk to teachers
- encourage their child to develop a plan with their teacher to deal with the situation
- deal responsibly, calmly & sensitively with school staff in dealing with issues

Teachers have a responsibility to:

- respect and support students in all aspects of their learning
- model appropriate behaviour
- respond in an appropriate and timely manner to incidents of bullying according to the school's bullying plan

- teach co-operative learning skills, play skills and conflict resolution skills through Key Learning Areas
- be observant of signs of distress
- intervene sensitively
- actively supervise classroom and playground activities
- consult with students to identify any issues of concern
- report all incidences of sustained bullying to the Principal

Shellharbour Public School will:

- implement an Anti-Bullying Plan
- inform students, parents and caregivers of their Anti-Bullying Plan
- provide students with strategies to respond appropriately and constructively to incidents of bullying
- provide students with strategies to deal with bullying responsibly as an observer or bystander
- communicate with parents in a variety of forms:
 - time to think sheets
 - phone calls to discuss incidents
 - parent / teacher communication letter
 - parent / teacher / executive meetings
- include parents in Anti-Bullying practices and processes
- follow up complaints of bullying, harassment and intimidation

Procedures for Reporting Bullying

To maintain a safe, happy and caring learning environment, Shellharbour Public School will help victims, bystanders and those who bully through:

- mediation and restitution
- counselling sessions and School Chaplaincy Program
- parental involvement
- Student Welfare Social skills/ Values programs taught within all classes
- distribution of information about the school Anti-Bullying Plan to all parents via newsletters & publication on the school website.

<p>What Should a Victim or Bystander Do?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ tell someone (teacher, parent/ carer) immediately about the bullying ○ feel assured that your concerns will be dealt with by a member of staff ○ report any ongoing concerns or incidents where the bullying behaviour has not stopped
<p>What Should Parents/ Carers Do?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ encourage their child/ children to understand the unacceptability of bullying as much as possible and assure him/ her that the problem can be solved ○ encourage their child/ children to communicate his/ her concerns about bullying with a staff member ○ contact the school if their child's/ children's efforts to deal with bullying do not appear to be working
<p>What Should Staff Do?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ monitor and record any incidences of bullying in the playground, in the Playground Behaviour Book ○ monitor any incidences of bullying in the classroom ○ deal with any breach of the school Anti- Bullying Plan according to the Student Welfare Policy - after three incidences have been recorded a Parent Communication Letter will be sent home requesting an interview between the Executive and the parent ○ incidents of a serious nature will be dealt with quickly by an executive and do not require reference to previous recorded incidents ○ refer children who are repeatedly bullied or who are bullying others to the

Strategies for Monitoring and Evaluating the Plan

Shellharbour Public School will:

- analyse data on the nature and extent of bullying within the school
- identify any relevant trends, such as suspected bullying or harassment
- review the effectiveness of the policy in dealing with bullying appropriately
- evaluate the extent to which the policy has effectively supported the provision of a safe, secure and happy environment
- invite parents to support the revision of the Anti Bullying Policy
- report evaluation outcomes to the school community through the school newsletter & the school website.