

WINGHAM BRUSH PUBLIC SCHOOL

ANTI BULLYING

POLICY

2011

CONTENTS

1. Belief

- Key elements

2. Definition

- Verbal Abuse and Harassment
- Physical Abuse
- Abuse of Property

3. Procedures and Programs

- Objective Statement
- Objectives
 - Change bullies attitude
 - Support those who are bullied
 - Culture change

4. Encouraging Parents and Students

- Strategies

Wingham Brush Public School

Anti Bullying Policy - 2011

Belief

The teachers, parents and children at Wingham Brush Public School believe that every child has the right to feel safe and protected from any form of physical, verbal, emotional abuse or threat.

This is particularly relevant to our students during class lesson times, moving to and from class, play times, before school, recess, lunch time, bus lines, to and from school (either walking or by bus) and at the bus stop.

1. Students and teachers have the right to feel safe and happy at school.
2. Students and teachers will be treated with respect and dignity.
3. Students and teachers will be treated fairly.
4. Students and teachers have a responsibility to reduce aggression in our school.
5. Students have the right to learn.
6. Students are expected to behave appropriately.
7. Teachers have a right to teach.

Key elements

This policy seeks to:

1. Promote positive relationships.
2. Specifically prevent bullying and harassment.
3. Eliminate unacceptable behaviour which occurs between:
 - students;
 - teachers and students;
 - teachers and teachers; and,
 - parents and teachers.

Definition

Bullying is:

- A deliberate act to hurt someone verbally, physically or psychologically.
- Repeated oppression.
- A negative ongoing behaviour by a more powerful person or group.
- Used to intimidate, frighten or dominate.
- What is bullying for one person may not be for another.

Bullying comes in a variety of forms and has been grouped under the following headings: verbal abuse and harassment, physical abuse and abuse of property. These headings provide examples of the types of behaviours constituting bullying.

Verbal Abuse and Harassment

- Verbal harassment and threats
- Name calling
- Teasing
- Stand-over tactics by older or dominant children
- Swearing at others or use of offensive language at school and/or travelling to and from school
- Put downs
- Discrimination eg religion, race, size, intelligence
- Excluding people from your game or group to be hurtful

Physical Abuse

- Punching, kicking, pushing, tugging, grabbing, wrestling, barging, pinching, biting, spitting etc.

Abuse of Property

- Consistent touching or interfering with others property without permission in the playground, outside classrooms and in classrooms for the purpose of upsetting target child, fits into this category.

Procedures and Programs

The procedures and programs for eliminating bullying within the school require a variety of approaches. These approaches are interrelated and in some circumstances hierarchical.

Objective Statement

- Change the behaviour and attitude of the bully.
- Support those who are bullied.
- Create a culture where bullying is unacceptable and students, teachers and parents consistently confirm and model this belief.

Objectives:

1. Change bullies attitude

- Counselling by class teacher, planning room teachers and additional support staff (School Counsellors and the Behaviour Support Team).
- Use of non-punitive strategies such as shared concern and the Pikas 'No Blame Interview'.
- The use of sanctions:
 - Restore, repair or replace property
 - Denial of privileges
 - Individual management plans
 - Withdrawal from classroom or playground
 - Suspension or expulsion
- Specific social skills programs for all students.

2. Support those who are bullied

- Counselling by class teacher, planning room teachers and additional support staff (School Counsellors and the Behaviour Support Team).
- Specific social skills programs for all students (including Rock and Water).
- Assist students to be assertive.

3. Culture change

- Ongoing support for teachers by reviewing and discussing the policies and procedures outlined in this policy.
- Providing additional training for key personnel.
- Communicate to students, teachers and parents the anti bullying stance of the school.

Encouraging Parents and Students

Teachers will often need to work with parents over cases of bullying, either because the bully's parents need to know of the situation and are asked to help, or because parents want help from the school because their child is being bullied.

Strategies

1. Summary of policy to be provided to all parents initially, then new parents including kindergarten.
2. Parents to know and understand what support is expected from them. This support be outlined in the Information Booklet and discussed at Term 1 Parent/Teacher meetings.
3. Train parents on the school Anti-Bullying Program and support needs.
4. Establish a hierarchy of complaint system for parents ie what to do, where to go and don't assume.
5. Parents and children to be educated on "what bullying is" - verbal, physical etc.
6. Helpful hints to parents in Newsletter.
7. Conduct bullying audit 2 times per year (Semester 1 and 3)