



# STUDENT ANTI BULLYING POLICY

## **Definition:**

A person is bullied when there has been a repeated act of aggression causing embarrassment, pain or discomfort. These acts can include verbal and physical abuse or intimidation by exclusion, gestures or extortion. It can also include **cyberbullying** which is a form of bullying that is carried out through an internet service such as email, chat room, online social networking, instant messaging or web pages and mobile phone technologies such as SMS and it may involve text or images. Bullying can impact upon the emotional, social, behavioural and physical wellbeing of a person.

## **Rationale:**

The school community of Iramoo Primary School aims to provide a safe, cooperative and positive learning environment. The welfare of our school community is paramount *so that effective learning* and socialising can take place.

## **Aims:**

- To provide a safe, co-operative and inclusive environment.
- To reinforce within the school community that bullying is not acceptable.
- To be familiar with the signs and evidence of bullying and to have a responsibility to report it to the appropriate staff whether as an observer or a victim.
- To ensure that all reported incidents of bullying are investigated and that support is given to both victim and perpetrator when required.
- To seek parental and peer group support and cooperation at all times.

## **Implementation:**

At Iramoo Primary School we implement various strategies for the prevention of bullying.

These include:

Classroom programs for the purpose of developing social skills.

*Behaviour Management Plans*

*Classroom Rules*

*Iramoo Top Ten Not Negotiables*

*Drug Education Program*

*Program Achieve*

*Clear and concise consequences*

*School Values*

*Connecting Kids*

*School Chaplain Program*

*Individual Learning Plans for Behaviour*

*General class discussion about appropriate and safe social behaviour*

- Follow and implement the eSmart-Cybersafety policy.
- Provision of specialised skill sessions for targeted children which are supported by outside agencies such as the school Psychologist, Royal Children's Hospital community groups and other community groups.
- Supervised alternative lunchtime programs.
- 'Incident book' for bullying incidents.
- Vigilant supervision of playground known 'hot spots'.
- School community to be made aware of the anti-bullying policy.
- Staff Professional Development when required.

## **Responding to Bullying:**

- Bullying will be given an immediate response on the same day where possible.
- All incidents will be documented with all parties involved included.
- Serious situations and repeat offenders will be dealt with by the school leaders (Student Welfare Coordinator, Assistant Principal).
- Repeat offenders may be involved in an alternative lunchtime program.
- Counselling will be available for the bullied child.
- Parents will be contacted when necessary.

## **RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY**

Teachers should:

- exercise an appropriate duty of care towards students
- have the right to be supported by colleagues, leaders, administrators and parents
- be free from disruption in the teaching and learning process
- have the right to discipline children
- promote self-esteem, confidence and self-worth among students
- be responsible for reporting incidents to the administration, parents and the student's classroom teacher when necessary
- be responsible for ensuring that the discipline policy is consistently implemented throughout the school.

Non-teaching staff should:

- exercise an appropriate duty of care towards students
- be responsible for supporting classroom teachers and whole school
- be responsible for reporting incidents of bullying to appropriate staff members
- be responsible for being involved with the implementation of the anti-bullying policy
- be supported by the classroom teacher, colleagues and administration.

Students should:

- be free of any physical/verbal/cyberbullying
- have a right to be safe
- be respected/respectful
- follow the school rules
- take responsibility for their behaviour
- be able to work and play without interference
- report any bullying incident
- contribute to making the school a safe learning place.

Parents should:

- support the school policy and its implementation
- have the right to be kept informed
- maintain open, effective and positive communication with the school.

## **VIOLATION OF POLICY**

Consequences may involve:

- exclusion from class
- exclusion from the yard
- withdrawal of privileges
- after school detention and parents notified
- school suspension
- counselling from an appropriate agency for both victim and bully.

### **Evaluation:**

- Evaluation of yard duty incidents.
- Effectiveness of classroom social skills programs.
- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.