

Anti-Bullying Policy

Mt Gambier North R – 7 School, the Governing Council, Principal, Staff and Student Representative Council support our Anti-Bullying Policy. Completing the application for to enrol at Mount Gambier North R – 7 School is taken as acceptance of the Anti-Bullying Policy.

Definition of Bullying Behaviours

Bullying can be verbal, physical, psychological or social behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. Cyber-bullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies. Bullying includes a wide range of conduct that causes another person to feel embarrassed, offended, hurt, humiliated, insulted, ridiculed, angry or afraid.

Harassment is behaviour that targets an individual or group due to their identity, race, culture or ethnic origin: religion: physical characteristics; gender; sexual orientation; marital, parenting or economic status; age; ability or disability and that offends, humiliates, intimidates or creates a hostile environment.

Cyber bullying uses e-technology as a means of victimising others. It is the use of an internet service or mobile technologies such as email, chat rooms, and discussion groups, instant messaging, web pages or SMS – with the intent of harming another person.

Violence is the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against another person(s) that results in psychological harm or physical injury. Violence may involve provoked or unprovoked acts and can be a single incident, a random act or can occur over and over.

What Can you do about Bullying?

If you are bullied or you know someone is being bullied, please report it. Report the bullying as soon as you become aware of it to a staff member, classroom teacher, a member of the leadership team or a trusted friend. Do not ignore it. When bullying is ignored it may get worse. Tell the trusted person what has happened, where the bullying happened, how often it has happened and what you have done to try to stop it happening. The school will keep classroom, yard and office records to address issues.

Responsibilities of the Leadership Team, Staff, Students and Parents

Strategies the Leadership Team will utilise to minimise the likelihood of bullying and violence occurring in school:

- Develop, implement and review annually the school's anti bullying policy involving staff, parents and students.
- Survey students, parents and teachers, in line with the review schedule for the school's policy.
- Provide updates to the Governing Council in relation to school bullying data and trends and any anti bullying programs/initiatives in place or being considered.
- Manage the incidents of bullying consistent with the DECD School Discipline Policy.
- Ensure ongoing professional development of teachers, induction of students and the provision of information to parents.
- Manage a whole school change approach to ensure the Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum is implemented in all year levels.
- Ensure that all parents have access to the school's Anti Bullying Policy, the DECD Bullying and Harassment at School: Advice for Parents and Caregivers, Cyber bullying, e-crime and the protection of children and young people Advice for families and related documents via the school's website.

Strategies staff will utilise to develop and maintain positive relationships with students and families:

- Communicate and interact effectively with students and engage in collaborative problem solving to address issues of bullying.
- Critically reflect on practices and develop the knowledge and skills needed to manage incidents of bullying successfully.
- Establish, maintain, make explicit and model the school's expectations and values related to bullying.
- Adopt positive classroom management strategies and incorporate anti-bullying messages into curriculum delivery.
- Participate in professional development related to decreasing bullying and implement the Child Protection Curriculum to teach students about respectful relationships.
- Teach students appropriate grievance procedures, countering harassment strategies, conflict resolution and problem solving skills.
- Teach students how to respond appropriately if they witness bullying and to support students to be effective bystanders.

Strategies students will utilise to support the school in maintaining a safe and supportive environment:

- Respect self and other students, staff and members of the school community.
- Be an effective bystander and report the event and where possible provide support.
- Follow the school's behaviour expectations.
- Tell the person doing the bullying to stop. Use 'I' statements to solve problems. State clearly that the behaviour is unwelcome and offensive