



Dandenong South PS Cyber Bullying Policy

Definition:

A person is bullied when someone, or a group of people, deliberately upset or hurt another person or damage their property, reputation or social acceptance on more than one occasion. There is an imbalance of power in incidents of bullying with the bully or bullies having more power at the time due to age, size, status or other reasons. People who use the Internet, email, intranets, phones, social networks or similar technologies to bully others are cyber bullies.

Rationale:

Bullying in any form is unacceptable. Bullying carried out through an Internet service, such as email, chat room, discussion group or instant messaging or through mobile phone technologies such as short messaging service (SMS) is cyber bullying. Cyber bullying can be very destructive and will not be tolerated at any level, and serious consequences exist for students who choose to bully others.

Dandenong South Primary School is committed to child safety. We have a zero tolerance to child abuse. Our school actively promotes the safety and wellbeing of all students, and all school staff are committed to protecting students from abuse or harm in the school environment in accordance with their legal obligations including the Child Safe Standards.

Aims:

- To educate and reinforce within the school community what bullying is (including cyber bullying), and the fact that it is unacceptable.
- To alert everyone within the school community of the signs and evidence of cyber bullying and to have a responsibility to report it to staff whether as observer or victim.
- To ensure that all reported incidents of cyber bullying are investigated appropriately and that support is given to both victims and perpetrators.
- To seek parental and peer group support and cooperation at all times in relation to cyber bullying.

Implementation:

- Parents, teachers, students and the community to be made aware of types of cyber bullying, and its legal and hurtful ramifications. Teachers will be regularly reminded of their duty of care regarding protection of students from all forms of bullying. There is no single solution to the problem of cyber bullying.
- The school will adopt a three-phase approach to bullying.

A. Primary Prevention:

- Professional development for staff relating to all forms of bullying including cyber bullying, harassment and proven counter measures.
- Teachers will be trained in cybersafety. Cybersafety awareness programs will be provided for parents and cybersafety will form part of the Technologies curriculum.

- The provision of programs that promote inclusiveness, resilience and social skills will form an integral part of our curriculum.
- Teachers will implement specific cybersafety programs that are developmentally appropriate. These programs will be discussed and outlined in sub school meetings as required.
- All students will be provided with computer and network passwords. Processes are in place to ensure tracking of student activity on the school's computer equipment and network. Firewalls are installed to eliminate outside traffic into the school's network and intranet.
- The use of mobile phones by students is not permitted. If mobile phones are required by families for communication purposes, consent needs to be provided. Classroom teachers are required to store mobile phones during school hours.

B. Intervention:

- Classroom teachers are primarily responsible for students in their classrooms and will seek support from their Sub School Leader or Assistant Principals if needed.
- Once identified each bully, victim and witnesses will be spoken with, and all incidents or allegations of bullying will be fully investigated and documented on Sentral.
- The school will reinforce with children the importance of appropriately reporting incidents of inappropriate behaviour involving themselves or others.
- Parents are to be contacted if their child is alleged to have been bullied or experienced inappropriate behaviour, or if their child appears to have behaved inappropriately or bullied someone else.
- Appropriate and proportional consequences will be implemented.
- If student bullying persists parents will be contacted and consequences implemented consistent with the school's Student Code of Conduct.
- Consequences of repetitive or serious incidents may include criminal charges, suspension, expulsion, loss of privileges, counselling, conciliation or any other consequences consistent with the school's Student Code of Conduct.

C. Post Violation:

It is important that appropriate strategies are put in place after the incident has been resolved for all students involved. Appropriate strategies may include:

- Ongoing monitoring of the students involved
- Follow-up student meetings with Sub School Team Leaders / Primary Welfare Officer
- Ongoing communication with parents
- Provide support structures as necessary
- Reinforcement of positive behaviours and appropriate behaviour strategies

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed with whole staff, student, parent and community input as part of the school's four year review cycle or earlier as required.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on....

12/05/17