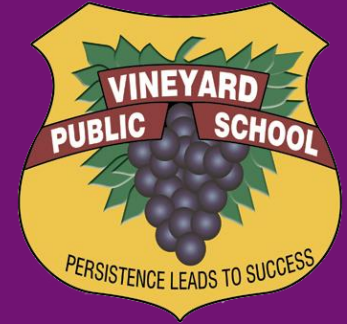




Education

Anti-bullying Plan

Vineyard Public School





Bullying:

Preventing and Responding to Student Bullying in Schools Policy (2011)

The NSW Department of Education rejects all forms of bullying. No student, employee, parent, caregiver or community member should experience bullying within the learning or working environments of the Department.

Bullying

Bullying is repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological 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 can involve humiliation, domination, intimidation, victimisation and all forms of harassment including that based on sex, race, disability, homosexuality or transgender. Bullying of any form or for any reason can have long term effects on those involved including bystanders.

Conflict or fights between equals or single incidents are not defined as bullying.

Bullying behaviour can be:

- **verbal** e.g. repeated name calling, repeated teasing, repeated abuse, repeated putdowns, repeated sarcasm, repeated insults, repeated threats
- **physical** e.g. repeated hitting, repeated punching, repeated kicking, repeated scratching, repeated tripping, repeated spitting
- **social** e.g. repeated ignoring, repeated excluding, repeated ostracising, repeated alienating, repeated inappropriate gestures
- **psychological** e.g. repeated spreading rumours, repeated dirty looks, repeated hiding or damaging of possessions, repeated malicious SMS and email messages, repeated inappropriate use of camera phones
- **cyberbullying** e.g. bullying through information and communication technologies including repeated malicious SMS and email messages, repeated inappropriate use of camera phones and other IT devices, repeated inappropriate messages, comments or photographs on social media sites (e.g. Facebook)

The term "bullying" has a specific meaning. The school's Anti-bullying Plan sets out the **processes for preventing and responding to student bullying**. The school has a range of policies and practices, including welfare and discipline policies that apply to student behaviour generally.

Vineyard Public School Anti-Bullying Plan

This plan outlines the processes for taking reasonable steps to prevent and respond to student bullying in our school and reflects the *Bullying: Preventing and Responding to Student Bullying in Schools Policy* of the New South Wales Department of Education.

Vineyard Public School is a school community of excellence and opportunity. Its purpose is to nurture a community of learners and empower them to strive for continuous growth. We aim to maximise the social, emotional and academic outcomes for all our students.

We aspire for a safe learning environment at Vineyard Public School. Every person has the right to experience positive and respectful relationships. They have the right to learn and teach in a happy and safe environment. Any inappropriate behaviour that gets in the way of teaching and learning at the school and interferes with the wellbeing of students will not be accepted.

Statement of Purpose

Schools exist in a society where incidents of bullying behaviour may occur. Students, teachers, parents, caregivers and members of the wider school community have a shared responsibility to take reasonable steps.

A shared responsibility exists for all members of the Sherwood Ridge community to:

- Be aware of what bullying entails.
- Be alert to signs and evidence of bullying.
- Ensure that strategies are in place to manage incidents of concern
- Encourage and assist students to resolve conflict in a positive way

Through our commitment and implementation of Positive Behaviour for Learning our school will foster a climate in which students feel confident

that teachers will listen to and act on their concerns.

Protection

All members of the school community contribute to the prevention of bullying by modelling and promoting appropriate behaviour and respectful relationships

Schools exist in a society where incidents of bullying behaviour may occur. Preventing and responding to bullying behaviour in learning and working environments is a shared responsibility of all departmental staff, students, parents, caregivers and members of the wider school community.

All members of the school community contribute to the prevention of bullying by modelling and promoting appropriate behaviour and respectful relationships.

[The Complaints Handling Policy](#) establishes the standard approach to resolving complaints, including complaints about the way a reported incident of bullying has been managed and it is required that it be used in all learning and working environments of the Department of Education. 'Reasonable disciplinary action conducted in a reasonable manner does not constitute bullying.'

For matters involving bullying which affect departmental employees, refer to the department's [Prevention of Bullying in the Workplace Policy](#) (intranet only).

Responsibilities and Delegations

School staff have a responsibility to:

- respect and support students
- model and promote appropriate behaviour
- have a reasonable knowledge of school and departmental policies relating to bullying behaviour
- respond in a timely manner to incidents of bullying according to the school's Anti-Bullying Plan

In addition, teachers have a responsibility to:

provide curriculum and pedagogy that supports students to develop an understanding of bullying and its impact on individuals and the broader community

Students have a responsibility to:

- behave appropriately, respecting individual differences and diversity
- behave as responsible digital citizens
- follow the school Anti-bullying Plan
- behave as responsible bystanders
- report incidents of bullying according to their school Anti-Bullying Plan.

Parents and caregivers have a responsibility to:

- support their children to become responsible citizens and to develop responsible online behaviour
- be aware of the school Anti-bullying Plan and assist their children in understanding bullying behaviour
- support their children in developing positive responses to incidents of bullying consistent with the school Anti-bullying Plan
- report incidents of school related bullying behaviour to the school
- work collaboratively with the school to resolve incidents of bullying when they occur.

The Anti-Bullying Plan – NSW Department of Education

Prevention and Early Intervention

Features of Vineyard Public School that aims to deter bullying:

- Anti-Bullying Plan
- A school ethos that emphasises respect for others and ourselves
- Active supervision of students during lessons, excursions, sporting activities and breaks
- Communication of policy and incidents (when appropriate) with staff, students, parents, other agencies
- Surveys to gather information on bullying
- Creative positive environments
- Drug Education Program
- Whole school anti-bullying program
- Life Education Program
- PBL expectations displayed in classrooms
- K-6 child protection program
- Resources (Bullying No Way!, CyberSmart)
- Developing positive student leadership roles
- Incursions when appropriate
- Anti-bullying lessons taught through the relationships theme of the Interpersonal Relationships strand in the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education Syllabus.



Response

Vineyard Public School's positive behaviour for learning system incorporated in the school's Wellbeing Policy outlines clear procedures and systems which aim to prevent bullying or inappropriate behaviour.

When a staff member is made aware of an alleged bullying incident:

1. Staff member takes reasonable steps to investigate.
2. All students involved are given opportunity to describe and explain their behaviours
3. If behaviour is identified as bullying then the school's Anti-Bullying and Wellbeing Policy will be followed
4. Interview with students involved
5. Follow up with students involved
6. Parents are contacted if deemed necessary
7. Ongoing monitoring

All students are encouraged to report any incident of bullying.

Any incidents that involve assaults, threats, weapons, illegal drugs and criminal activity will be reported to the School Safety and Response Hotline and the police by the Principal.

Staff must report any concerns about risk of harm to a student, to the Principal who will then use the appropriate tools to inform decision making, such as the online Mandatory Reporter Guide, professional judgment or specialist advice.

Advice will be sought from the Child Wellbeing Unit where there is uncertainty about whether concerns amount to risk of significant harm.

Concerns about the safety or wellbeing of children or young people which constitute a risk of significant harm will be reported to Community Services.

School Anti-Bullying Plan – NSW Department of Education

The school will manage serious incidents (involving assaults, threats, intimidation or harassment) as per the school's Discipline Policy and the DoE policies for;

- Student Discipline in Government Schools - support materials
- Suspension and Expulsion of School Students Procedures
- Student Welfare Policy,
- Bullying: Preventing and Responding to Student Bullying in Schools Policy
- Bullying Among Young Children: A guide for parents
- National Safe Schools Framework
- Keep Them Safe: A shared approach to child wellbeing - Summary
- Complaints Handling Policy Guidelines

Additional Resources and Contact

John BOLLARD - School/Youth Liaison, Quakers Hill LAC, 02 9678.8999

Cybersmart - Cybersmart provides activities, resources and practical advice to help young kids, kids, teens and parents safely enjoy the online world.
<http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/>

Kids Help Line - Kids Help Line is Australia's only free, confidential and anonymous, 24 hour telephone and online counselling service specifically for young people aged between 5 and 18. The 24 hour, toll free telephone number is 1800 55 1800. www.kidshelp.com.au

Mindmatters - Mindmatters is a program to support Australian secondary schools in promoting and protecting the social and emotional wellbeing of members of school communities
<http://online.curriculum.edu.au/mindmatters/index.htm>

Racism. No Way! - Racism. No Way! is designed to assist school communities develop an understanding of the nature of racism. It provides practical information and strategies to help address racism in the learning environment. www.racismnoway.com.au

Reach Out! - Reach Out! is a web-based service that assists young people to help themselves through tough times. The aim of the service is to create opportunities for young people to help themselves and to help others.

www.reachout.com.au

Bullying among young children: A guide for parents by the Australian Attorney General's Department - to obtain a copy call 1800 708 77

Principals Comment:

As a staff and school community we have a responsibility to take positive and consistent actions to deal effectively with bullying our Anti-Bullying Policy aim to deal effectively with and prevent incidences of bullying. Vineyard staff recognises that bullying occurs and that it needs to be dealt with quickly and with due thought to procedural fairness.

The members who reviewed and revised the latest version of the plan are:

Pauline Bentham – Principal

Libbi Brickley – Classroom Teacher

Ashleigh Barker – Classroom Teacher

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