

# Mawson Lakes School

## Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy



The core business of our school is to promote and support teaching and learning in a safe environment. At our school, everyone has a right to feel safe and be treated with respect. Our anti-bullying policy links with our school behaviour support policy which focuses on staff, parents and students working together to create safe, caring, orderly and productive learning communities which support the rights of all students to learn and all teachers to teach.

### What is Bullying?

Bullying is on-going misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that causes physical and/or psychological harm.

It can involve an individual or group misusing their power over one or more persons. Bullying can happen in person or online, and it can be obvious or hidden.

Bullying of any form, for any reason, can have long-term effects for those involved, including bystanders.

Some conflicts between children are a normal part of growing up and are to be expected. Single incidents involving conflicts or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not considered bullying, even though they may be upsetting and need to be resolved.

Bullying can happen:

**Face-to-face** e.g. pushing, tripping, name-calling.

**At a distance** e.g. spreading rumours, excluding someone

**Online** e.g. through information and communication technologies (Social media, online games, SMS, e-mail, etc.)

(Online bullying is sometimes called cyber-bullying and carried out through the internet or mobile devices. Children who are bullied online are also often bullied face-to-face.)

Examples of online bullying include:

- Repeated harassment (prank-calls, invited/added to online groups).
- Sending insulting or threatening messages (voice and/or text).
- Publishing or threatening to publish someone's personal or embarrassing information online.
- Creating hate sites or starting exclusion campaigns on social networking sites.

Online bullying is one potential Cyber-safety issue for children when using technology. Learn more about Cyber-safety at "Bullying No Way" <http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/>



## Examples of Bullying

### Repeated or on-going:

**Verbal bullying** which includes name calling or insulting someone about physical characteristics such as their weight or height, or other attributes including race, sexuality, culture, or religion.

**Physical bullying** which includes hitting or otherwise hurting someone, shoving or intimidating another person, or damaging or stealing their belongings.

**Social bullying** which includes consistently excluding another person or sharing information or images that will have a harmful effect on the other person.

### Strategies that we will use to deal with bullying

- Openly talk about it – what it is, how it affects us and what we can do about it.
- Teach our students skills to build self-esteem and empowerment and provide opportunities for them to practice these skills.
- Regularly review our policy with students, staff and the school community.

### Responsibility of Staff:

- To model appropriate behaviour.
- To actively listen to all students who report incidents.
- To develop and maintain strong relationships with students.
- Support students to be active and effective bystanders
- To record and deal with all reported and observed incidents of bullying or harassment

### Responsibility of Parents:

- To watch for signs that their children may be being bullied or harassed
- To speak to the child's teacher if they suspect their child is being bullied
- To support their child to tell a teacher if they are being bullied
- To work with the school to resolve incidents of bullying

### Responsibility of Students:

- To not bully or harass others
- To help someone who is being bullied by telling the bully to stop, by getting the other person away from the bully, or by telling a teacher immediately (effective by standing)
- To tell an adult if they are being bullied or if they see someone else being bullied
- To persist. If you tell someone and nothing happens, then tell someone else.

### Whole School Initiatives

- National day against Violence and Bullying
- Sammy D Foundation (Yr's 5/6/7)
- SAPOL Cyber Safety (Yr's 5/6/7)
- Harmony Day
- Student Agency/Voice
- Child Protection Curriculum (R-7)

For more information about how the school supports and responds to behaviour incidents, please refer to our Behaviour Support Policy, available <https://www.mawsonlakes.sa.edu.au/>  
You will also find a copy of our Grievance policies and procedures.

Ratified by Governing Council: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020  
David Cowles (Principal)  
Peter Richings (Governing Council Chairperson)

