



## **STRATHFIELD SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL**

### **ANTI-BULLYING POLICY**

Students learn best in environments in which they feel safe. Bullying devalues, isolates and frightens people so that they no longer believe in their ability to achieve. It may have long-term effects on the perpetrators, their targets and the onlookers.

Every student has the right to expect that he or she will spend the day – both in and out of the classroom – free from bullying and intimidation.

One of the expectations of good discipline in NSW government schools is that there will be no violence, discrimination, harassment, bullying or intimidation.

#### ***MISSION STATEMENT:***

At Strathfield South we aim to provide a caring environment that allows students to develop high self esteem and excellent social and academic outcomes.

**MOTTO:**                   **“THINK OF OTHERS”**

#### ***DISCIPLINE CODE:***

At Strathfield South we expect our students to

##### **BE RESPONSIBLE**

- \* go directly to and from school using safe crossings
- \* move quickly to lines and play in correct areas
- \* be prompt to all lessons
- \* complete all homework
- \* sit and eat in the correct area
- \* follow school procedures
- \* take care of own equipment and clothing
- \* label all personal items



##### **SHOW CARE AND CONCERN FOR OTHERS**

- \* be well mannered at all times
- \* be kind to other students
- \* use appropriate language
- \* treat staff, visiting teachers and parent helpers with respect
- \* avoid all racist comments and actions
- \* speak to each other in a polite calm manner
- \* behave calmly and sensibly

##### **PLAY SAFELY AND SENSIBLY**

- \* use equipment sensibly and follow all safety rules
- \* play cooperatively with others
- \* bring only safe items to school
- \* walk on asphalt/concrete areas
- \* use the facilities sensibly
- \* share playground space fairly
- \* play in a safe way
- \* allow others to play fairly and safely
- \* follow the rules of the library
- \* remember the office and library areas are quiet areas



##### **WORK HARD AND CONSISTENTLY IN ALL LESSONS**

- \* follow class rules
- \* complete all work sets
- \* participate in all class discussions and group work
- \* make visiting teachers feel welcome
- \* always be proud of their effort

##### **TAKE PRIDE IN OUR SCHOOL AND ALL IT STANDS FOR**

- \* wear school uniform
- \* represent the school when possible
- \* look after our grounds/gardens
- \* place all rubbish in the bins
- \* recycle where and when possible
- \* conserve water and electricity at all times
- \* take care of all school equipment and return to correct area

## ***What is Bullying?***

Bullying can be defined as intentional, repeated behaviour by an individual or group of individuals that causes distress, hurt or undue pressure.

Bullying involves the abuse of power in relationships. Bullying can involve all forms of harassment (including sex, race, disability, homosexuality or transgender), humiliation, domination and intimidation of others.

Bullying behaviour can be

- **verbal** eg name calling, teasing, abuse, putdowns, sarcasm, insults, threats
- **physical** eg hitting, punching, kicking, scratching, tripping, spitting
- **social** eg ignoring, excluding, ostracising, alienating, making inappropriate gestures
- **psychological** eg spreading rumours, dirty looks, hiding or damaging possessions, malicious SMS and email messages, inappropriate use of camera phones.

Students, teachers, parents, caregivers and members of the wider school community can expect

- that students will be safe at school, free from fear of bullying, harassment and intimidation
- to know what is expected of them and others in relation to the Anti-bullying Plan
- that all students will be provided with appropriate support when bullying occurs.

Students, teachers, parents, caregivers and members of the wider school community have a responsibility to

- promote positive relationships that respect and accept individual differences and diversity within the whole school community
- contribute to the development of the Anti-bullying Plan and support it through words and actions
- actively work together to resolve incidents of bullying behaviour when they occur.

## ***Each group within the school community has a specific role in preventing and dealing with bullying.***

Students can expect to

- know that their concerns will be responded to by school staff
- be provided with appropriate support (for both the target and those responsible for the behaviour)
- take part in learning experiences that address key understandings and skills relating to positive relationships, safety, gender equity, discrimination, bullying and harassment. These experiences will be guided by the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education syllabuses and other Key Learning Areas.

Students have a responsibility to

- behave appropriately, respecting individual differences and diversity
- follow the school Anti-bullying Plan
- respond to incidents of bullying according to their school Anti-bullying Plan.

Parents and caregivers have a responsibility to

- support their children in all aspects of their learning
- model appropriate behaviours which are consistent with the school Anti Bullying Plan
- 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
- support all students of the school to deal effectively with bullying through the strategies of the Anti-bullying Plan.

Our school has a responsibility to

- develop an Anti-bullying Plan which clearly identifies both the behaviours that are unacceptable and the strategies for dealing with bullying in the classroom and playground
- inform students, parents, caregivers and the community about the School Discipline Code and Anti-bullying Plan
- provide students with strategies to respond positively to incidents of bullying behaviour, including responsibilities as bystanders or observers
- provide parents, caregivers and students with clear information on strategies that promote appropriate behaviour, and the consequences for inappropriate behaviour
- communicate to parents and caregivers that they have an important role to play in resolving incidents of bullying behaviour involving their children
- follow up complaints of bullying, harassment and intimidation.

Staff have a responsibility to

- respect and support students in all aspects of their learning
- model appropriate behaviour consistent with the school Anti Bullying Plan
- respond in an appropriate and timely manner to incidents of bullying

## **ANTI BULLYING PLAN**

### ***What a teacher can do to prevent and/or deal with bullying ?***

Teachers can be positive role models in such ways as modelling positive, inclusive behaviour in the classroom, playground and staffroom.

Teachers are in a very effective position to assist students deal with incidents of bullying and racism by challenging them when they occur. Specific programs may be taught

A target of bullying behaviour may exhibit the following behaviour or signs:

- visible signs of physical attack
- attention seeking
- frequently absent
- questioning authority
- isolating self or being isolated

### ***What to do if bullying is identified or reported in the playground***

- Listen carefully to the target student, and if the incident is minor, offer advice.
- Record Incident in data base - link if necessary. If it is not minor, talk to the perpetrator immediately. For serious repeated bullying, refer the matter to a member of the executive.
- Refer students to the School Counsellor if there appears to be a need for counselling or skill development.

### ***Consequences of bullying***

These include:

- restitution (making amends)
- time out
- detention
- exclusion from school activities
- contact with parents
- counselling
- suspension as per suspension policy



### ***What a student can do if bullying is witnessed***

- Help someone who is being bullied. Remember that nobody deserves to be bullied.
- If possible, show the bully that you and your friends strongly disapprove of bullying and racism.
- Say things like “cut it out” or “leave him/her alone”.
- Offer support and friendship to students who are bullied. Encourage the person being bullied to seek help from teachers or parents.
- Seek help. Report the incident to your teacher or another adult you can trust.

### ***What parents can do if they suspect bullying has occurred at school***

- Watch for signs of distress in your child. Some of the following may indicate bullying:
  - not wanting to go to school
  - missing equipment
  - damaged clothing or property
  - becoming withdrawn
  - lack of interest in social events
  - persistent headaches or feeling sick
  - wanting extra money
  - bruises or cuts or other injuries
  - losing self-confidence
  - lower academic performance
- If you are worried that your child is being bullied, ask him/her directly. Reassure your child that you will help them sort out the problem.
- If your child feels she/he can't tell anyone at school you should inform the school immediately that your child is being bullied.
- Do not encourage your child to fight or back answer.
- Be willing to tell the school of any cases of suspected bullying even if your own child is not directly affected.
- Support the school, by telling your child that bullying is not acceptable anywhere at any time.

### ***Monitoring and Evaluation***

- Incidences of bullying will be monitored through the collection of data managed by RISC.
- Data will be analysed by the executive at the end of each semester.
- Indicators to assess the effectiveness of programs:
  - number of incidences
  - repeat offences
  - types of bullying
  - school climate
  - playground behaviour
  - evaluation of programs such as Peer Support and PD/H/PE

