



Bullying Prevention Policy

Every member of the Crafers Primary School community has the right to be safe and free from the attempts of others to exert unjust power over them. As a consequence all members of the Crafers Primary school community have made a commitment to work collaboratively to maintain a safe and caring environment for all students.

Definition

Bullying is a pattern of repeated physical, verbal, psychological or social aggression that is directed towards a specific student by someone with more power and is intended to cause harm, distress and/or create fear. Bullying may be carried out overtly (e.g. face-to-face) or covertly (e.g. through repeated social exclusion or via technology). It is a sub-category of aggression and is different to, but also related to, harassment and violence. It is not the same as conflict or social dislike even though, in some cases, the outcome of both can be bullying.

A once-off disagreement with a friend or conflict over a game is not considered bullying unless the conflict continues and becomes intentionally hurtful.

Bullying can include:

Face-to-face bullying

Sometimes referred to as direct bullying, involves physical actions such as punching or kicking or overt verbal actions such as name-calling and insulting. Face-to-face bullying may also include extortion such as demanding money or possessions.

Covert bullying

Sometimes referred to as indirect bullying, is a subtle type of non-physical bullying which isn't easily seen by others and is conducted out of sight, and therefore often unacknowledged by adults. Covert bullying behaviours mostly inflict harm by damaging another's social reputation, peer relationships and self-esteem. Covert bullying may include rude gestures, threatening looks, exclusion or spreading rumours.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying occurs through the use of information or communication technologies such as instant messaging, text messages, email and social networking sites. It has many similarities with offline bullying but it differs in that the student(s) who is/are bullying can be anonymous, it can reach a wide audience and the sent or uploaded material can be difficult to remove.

Harassment

Harassment is behaviour that targets an individual or group due to their identify, 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.

Violence

Violence is the intentional use of physical force or power; threatened or actual against another person(s) that results in psychological harm, injury or in some cases death. Violence may involve provoked or unprovoked acts and can be a single incident, a random act or can occur over time. This may constitute an assault which is a police matter.

Bystander

A bystander is someone who sees or knows about child maltreatment, harassment, aggression, violence or bullying that is happening to someone else. Supportive bystander behaviours are action and/or words that are intended to support someone who is being attacked, abused or bullied. The actions of a support bystander can stop or diminish a specific bullying incident or help another student to recover from it.

Discrimination

Discrimination occurs when people are treated less favourably than others because of their race, culture or ethnic origin; religion; physical characteristics; gender; sexual orientation; marital, parenting or economic status; age; ability or disability. Discrimination is often on-going and commonly involves exclusion or rejection, and may be subject to investigation under the Equal Opportunity Act 1984.

Parent support

How can I tell if my child is being bullied

Children who are being bullied or harassed may not talk about it with their teachers. They may be afraid that it will only make things worse or they may feel that it is wrong to 'tell tales'.

This is why, as a parent or caregiver, you have an important part to play in helping the school, and your child, deal with bullying. A change in behaviour in students may be a signal that they are being bullied.

Some signs that a child is being bullied may be:

- unexplained cuts, bruises or scratches
- damaged or ripped clothing
- vague headaches or stomach aches
- refusal to go to school
- asking for extra pocket money or food
- tearfulness, anxiety or difficulty sleeping
- 'hiding' information on mobile phones, devices or emails.

How can I support my child if they are the perpetrator

Children will bully others for a number of reasons including to fit in with their peers, they have experienced bullying themselves or they may have feelings of insecurity. It is important to:

- talk with your child about what bullying behaviour is and that it is unacceptable
- talk with the school about their bullying prevention policy and how it can be reinforced at home

- listen to your child for clues that they have been bullied themselves
- discuss the 'Declaration of the rights of individuals' from this document with your child

Declaration of the rights of individuals at school

As a member of the Crafers Primary School community, you have the right:

- to feel safe, to be safe and to be treated with respect
- to feel included
- to be valued for yourself and not be compared to others
- to be free from harassment
- to know who to go to for help
- to be listened to and be heard
- to know that steps will be taken to resolve problems or issues
- to be provided with information and advice about bullying and how to manage it.

Response to incidents of bullying

The principles underlying response to incidents of bullying at Crafers Primary include:

- An acknowledgment that there are degrees of seriousness of incidents of bullying and responses cater for this range.
- Those responses seek to have a non-punitive approach to enable students to learn the appropriate social behaviours and provide an opportunity to restore positive relationships.
- Responses will be age appropriate.
- Ensure parents are aware of incidents concerning their child.

How is bullying reported

When to report

Reporting of an incident should occur as soon after the incident as possible. This gives the school the best opportunity to follow up the incident and intervene when appropriate.

How to report

Parents and students may find it helpful to write down the details of the incident as a first step. A face-to-face discussion is usually the best way of reporting an incident and, if they are dissatisfied with the outcome, they can follow up with a written statement with the request for a further meeting. If seriously concerned about the manner in which the school is dealing with an incident, a parent can contact his/her local Regional Office for support.

When your child reports an incident of bullying it is important for you to remain calm and encourage them to recount what has happened. You may want to find out and record the following information to help the school understand what has happened so that they can intervene appropriately:

- What happened
- Who was involved
- Where it happened
- If anyone else saw it

These steps are also useful if you find out that your child has been involved in bullying or harassing others.

Who to report to

Parents and students may choose to report incidents of bullying, including cyberbullying, to their class teacher in the first instance and, if the incident is serious or unresolved, to the school principal or deputy principal, or to someone on the school's staff they have confidence in. It is difficult for the school to follow up on an incident if it is unaware of it and, therefore, reporting of incidents of bullying is encouraged.

Websites and useful contacts numbers

Cyber Safety – www.cybersmart.gov.au

Bullying No Way! – www.bullyingnoway.gov.au

Office of eSafety Commissioner – www.esafety.gov.au

Kid's Helpline: Bullying – www.kidshelp.com.au 1800 55 1800

Parent Helpline SA – www.parenting.sa.gov.au 1300 364 100

Restorative Justice – www.restorativejustice.com.au