

## WYNN VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Anti-Bullying Policy

Wynn Vale Primary School does not tolerate bullying and harassment in any form.

With staff, students and parents working together we help to create a safe and caring learning environment, which promotes personal growth and self esteem for all.

#### **DEFINITION**

Bullying is an act of aggression, which repeatedly causes embarrassment, pain or discomfort to another.

- It can take a number of forms: physical, verbal, emotional, gesture, extortion and exclusion.
- It is usually pre-meditated.
- Individuals or groups may be involved.

Some examples of bullying include:

- Any form of physical violence such as hitting, pushing or spitting on others.
- Interfering with another's property by stealing, hiding, damaging or destroying it.
- Using offensive names, teasing or spreading rumours about others or their families.
- Using put downs.
- Writing offensive notes (including SMS messages and emails) or graffiti about others.
- Making degrading comments about another's culture, religious or social background.
- Hurtfully excluding others from a group.
- Making suggestive comments or other forms of sexual abuse.
- Ridiculing another's appearance.
- Forcing others to act against their will.
- Inducing others to bully.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

To prevent bullying at Wynn Vale School:

Staff will be required to:

- Ensure student awareness of the school's anti-bullying policy.
- Implement a classroom program to educate children about bullying that promotes resilience, assertiveness, conflict resolution and problem solving.
- Be observant for signs of distress or suspected incidents of bullying and harassment.
- Actively patrol the yard during supervision duty.
- Arrive promptly at little assemblies.
- Investigate and report suspected incidents to the appropriate senior staff member.

- Encourage children to report bullying incidents.
  - Conduct a bullying survey at designated times through the year
- Students will be required to:
- Take some form of appropriate preventative action in a bullying situation
  - Report incidents or suspected incidents where bullying has occurred to themselves or others to a staff member.

The school recommends that parents/carers:

- Watch for signs of distress in their child
- such as:
  1. anxiety
  2. insecurity
  3. loss of appetite
  4. bed wetting
  5. low self-esteem
  6. headaches
  7. sleeping difficulties
  8. abdominal pain
  9. sadness
  10. depression
- take an active interest in their child's social life and friends.
- Advise their child to tell a staff member about any incidents involving bullying and harassment.
- Inform the school if bullying or harassment is involved
- Do not encourage their child to retaliate.
- Be willing to attend interviews at the school if their child is involved in a bullying incident.

### **INTERVENTION**

The following protocol will be used to deal with incidents involving bullying or harassment.

- All incidents involving bullying will be investigated and documented by a senior staff member.
- Both the bully and victim will be offered counselling and support by a senior staff member.
- The welfare of the victim will be monitored over a period of time by a senior staff member.
- Parents/carers of bully and victim will be made aware of the incident by the Principal.
- Consequences for acts of bullying and harassment will be consistent with the Student Code of Conduct and may include:
  - Re-Think
  - Supervision by duty teacher at recess and lunch
  - Exclusion from the yard at recess and lunch
  - Alternative Yard Play
  - Take Home
  - Internal Suspension
  - Suspension

### **EVALUATION:**

The policy will be reviewed annually with the schools Behaviour Management Policy.

**Review in 2016**