



# Bullying – Prevention and Response

Clovelly Public School

## RATIONALE

This policy sets out the Clovelly Public School's position on student bullying and the requirements for preventing and responding to student bullying, to support whole-school prevention, early intervention and response approaches used at Clovelly Public School.

## AIM

Our school rejects all forms of bullying behaviours, including online (or cyber) bullying by maintaining a commitment to providing a safe, inclusive and respectful learning community that promotes student wellbeing. Executive staff are committed to establishing evidence-based approaches and strategies that promote a positive climate where bullying is less likely to occur.

## DEFINITION

- 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, humiliation, domination and intimidation of others.
- Bullying behaviour can be verbal, physical, social or psychological.

## SCHOOL CULTURE AND INCLUSION

All the members of the school community have a shared responsibility to create a safe and happy environment, free from all forms of bullying.

A key component of a supportive school culture is building respectful relationships and an ethos that bullying is not accepted, in both online and offline

environments. School staff will actively respond to student bullying behaviour.

Any inappropriate behaviour that interferes with the teaching, learning and wellbeing of Clovelly Public School students and staff is unacceptable.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

All members of the school community are active participants in building a welcoming school culture that values diversity and fosters positive relationships.

### The School has the responsibility to:

- Complete and implement the Anti-bullying Plan;
- Provide students with strategies to respond positively to incidents of bullying behaviour;
- Implement PB4L guidelines to teach students social expectations of behaviour;
- Provide parents, caregivers and students with clear information on strategies that promote appropriate behaviour and consequences of inappropriate behaviour;
- Manage complaints about bullying in accordance with the Complaints Handling Policy.

### The students have the responsibility to:

- Behave appropriately, respecting individual differences and diversity;
- Reinforce the message that bullying is not accepted or tolerated;
- Refrain from bullying others;
- Assist someone who is being bullied;
- Inform Clovelly Public School staff if they are being bullied or if they see someone else being bullied – both at school and on the way to and from school, including on online.

### **Staff have the responsibility to:**

- Support the school in maintaining a safe, inclusive and supportive learning environment model and promote appropriate relationships and behaviours;
- Promote a school culture where bullying is not acceptable;
- Teach students to identify, report and respond to bullying at school and online;
- Manage reports of bullying and escalate matters to the principal (or delegate) when necessary.

### **Parents and carers have responsibility to:**

- Be aware of the school's bullying Prevention and Response procedures, and assist their children in understanding bullying behaviour;
- Support their children in developing positive responses to incidents of bullying consistent with the Clovelly Public School's Bullying prevention and Response Statement;
- To model appropriate behaviour, respecting individual differences and diversity;
- To reinforce the message that bullying is not accepted or tolerated;
- To instruct their children to tell the appropriate authorities if they are bullied;
- To watch for signs that their child may be bullied;
- To speak to the Principal or Assistant Principal if their child is being bullied, or they suspect that this is happening.

## **STRATEGIES TO DEAL WITH BULLYING**

At Clovelly Public School there is a strong school spirit where effective and systematic programs communicate to all students the message that bullying is not accepted or tolerated.

Students can expect that their concerns will be responded to by the school staff and that they will be provided with appropriate support (for both the subjects of and those responsible for the behaviour).

Reports of bullying can be made to any staff member at a school. A teacher or school executive staff (such as the principal, deputy principal or assistant principal) at the school will address the reported bullying in a timely manner.

If a student, parent or carer believes a matter is not being dealt with effectively, they can refer the matter to the school's principal (or delegate) for resolution.

### **Prevention:**

Clovelly Public School provides a range of effective programs to ensure a safe and secure environment promoting personal growth and excellence in all students. We aim to develop confidence and self-esteem to empower students to take responsibility for themselves and their actions.

As part of this, the anti-bullying message is consistently communicated to students.

These programs include:

- Anti-Bullying Programs
- Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L)
- Clovelly Connect
- Girl Talk
- PD/PE Program
- Learning Support Team / School Counsellor

### **Response:**

Students who bully others may face one or more of the following consequences:

- Issue of a Blue Slip in accordance to our PB4L guidelines;
- Involvement in a mediation process;
- Referral to the school counsellor;
- Parents will be contacted by the school;
- Privileges may be withdrawn (e.g. exclusion from the playground or PSSA);
- Sanctions outlined in the School's Discipline Policy such suspension;
- Serious incidents of bullying may require Police involvement.

## **Further Information**

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