



# STUDENT ANTI BULLYING Policy

Child Safe Standard 2: Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

## **RATIONALE:**

The school will provide a positive culture where bullying is not accepted, and in so doing, all will have the right of respect from others, the right to learn or to teach, and a right to feel safe and secure in their school environment. Epping Views Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse and has an active approach to the duty of care in protecting children within the Epping Views School Community.

## **GUIDELINES:**

### **1. Definition and Examples:**

Bullying is when someone, or a group of people upset or create a risk to another person's health and safety, either psychologically, physically or their property, reputation or social acceptance. Bullying can be a series of repeatedly intentionally cruel incidents, involving the same person, in the same bully and victim roles. Bullying can also consist of a single interaction.

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, belittling others' abilities and achievements.
- Writing offensive notes 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.

### **2. The Rights of Students with Respect to Bullying at School:**

**All students have a right to:**

- feel safe and secure at school, to work, play and move from place to place without being harassed or bullied.
- travel to and from school safely without being harassed or bullied.
- be treated with fairness and respect, regardless of gender, race or disability.
- have personal and school property respected.
- expect a resolution of their problems, to be able to tell their side of the story in a dispute within a supportive environment and to be taught strategies to solve problems.

### **3. The Responsibilities of Students Who Witness Incidents of Bullying:**

Students have the responsibility to:

- refuse to be involved in any bullying situation, at school and while travelling to and from school. If present when bullying occurs the student should report the incident or suspected incident to a teacher or other adult.
- help to make our school a happy and safe place.
- treat others (parents, students, teachers) with consideration, tolerance and respect, accepting individuality.
- respect the property of others and the school.
- seek to resolve conflict in a positive and cooperative manner.

#### **4. The Responsibilities of Parents:**

The school recommends that parents:

- watch for signs of distress in their child, eg unwillingness to attend school, bed wetting, a pattern of headaches, missing equipment, requests for extra money, damaged clothes or bruising.
- take an active interest in their child's social life and acquaintances.
- advise their child to tell a staff member about bullying incidents.
- inform the school if bullying is suspected.
- do not encourage the child to retaliate.
- communicate to their child that parental involvement, if necessary, will be appropriate for the incident.
- be willing to attend interviews at the school if their child is involved in any bullying incident.
- be willing to inform the school of any cases of suspected bullying even if their own child is not directly affected.

#### **5. What the School Will Do to Counter Bullying on the Premises:**

The staff have a responsibility to:

- be role models in word and action at all times.
- be observant of signs of distress or suspected incidents of bullying.
- make efforts to remove occasions for bullying by actively patrolling during yard duty and by supervising effectively within the buildings.
- arrive at class on time and, where appropriate, move promptly between lessons.
- take steps to help victims and remove sources of distress without placing the victim at further risk.
- report suspected incidents to the appropriate staff member such as Student Wellbeing Officer, Class Teacher, PLT Leader, Assistant Principal, Principal, who will intervene with appropriate strategies (e.g. Assertiveness Training, Restorative Practice, Mediation) or provide consequences for infringements of the school's Code of Cooperation.
- provide opportunities for students to learn how to behave cooperatively and in a friendly manner to others.
- provide opportunities for parents to participate in parenting training that develop social strategies.
- Provide anti-bullying programs for students eg. Friendly Schools & Families.

#### **6. An Undertaking to Evaluate the Policy:**

This policy will be evaluated annually through:

- The annual Parent Survey
- The annual Student Attitudes to School Survey.
- Examination and analysis of the register of reported incidents.