



# Mentone Park Primary School

## BULLY PREVENTION

### POLICY

#### **Definition:**

A person is bullied when one or more other people expose them regularly and over time to negative or harmful actions. Bullies are people who deliberately set out to intimidate, exclude, threaten and/or hurt others repeatedly. Bullying is a clear form of harassment.

Cyberbullying is a form of bullying which is carried out through an internet service such as email, chat rooms, discussion groups, online social networking, instant messaging or web pages. It can also include bullying through mobile phones technologies such as SMS. It may involve text or images (photo, drawings).

All references to the term bullying in this policy refers to both bullying and cyberbullying.

#### **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.

#### **Aims:**

- To reinforce within the school community what bullying is, and the fact that it is unacceptable.
- To raise awareness within the school community to be alert to signs and evidence of bullying and to have a responsibility to report it to staff whether as observer or victim.
- To ensure that all reported incidents of bullying are followed up appropriately and that support is given to both victims and perpetrators.
- To seek parental and peer-group support and co-operation at all times.

#### **Implementation:**

- Parents, teachers, students and the community will be aware of the school's approach to bully prevention.
- Teachers will be regularly reminded of their duty of care regarding protection of students from all forms of bullying.
- The school will implement an extensive student wellbeing program consisting of student connectedness, resilience, values, bullying prevention program and building relationships.

- Professional development for staff relating to bully prevention.
- Community awareness and input relating to bullying (including cyber-bullying), its characteristics, its effects on victims and the school's programs and response.
- To provide programs that promote resilience, life and social skills, assertiveness, conflict resolution and problem solving.
- A bully prevention survey will be administered and acted upon annually.
- 'Bounce Back', Bully Prevention programs and Restorative Practices philosophy implemented across the school.
- Each classroom teacher to clarify with students at the start of each year the school policy on bully prevention, including cyber-bullying relevant to student age and understanding.
- All students to be provided with individual and confidential computer and network log ins and passwords. Processes to be put in place to ensure tracking of student activity on the school's computer equipment and network. Firewalls to be installed to eliminate outside traffic into the school's network and intranet.
- Junior School Council, staff and students to promote the strategies of 'Bounce Back' 'Restorative Practices and Bully Prevention.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy

**Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed with whole staff, student, parent and community input as part of the school's review cycle.

The following tools will be used to review the success of the wellbeing programs ,

- Bully Prevention survey
- Student Attitude to School survey
- Parent Survey
- Staff Opinion survey
- Student behaviour tracking database

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....	<b>May 2013</b>
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