



Education &
Communities

Anti-bullying Plan

Bass Hill Public School



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Anti-bullying Plan

This plan outlines the processes for preventing and responding to student bullying at Bass Hill Public School and reflects the *Bullying: Preventing and Responding to Student Bullying in Schools Policy* of the New South Wales Department of Education and Communities.

Statement of purpose

Bass Hill Public School rejects all forms of bullying. All students and staff have the right to be treated fairly and with dignity in an environment in which each can develop as a person of integrity, social conscience and courage. We aim to develop a school community in which everybody has the right to experience a secure, happy and safe environment where individual differences are recognised and accepted.

All members of the school community support the prevention of bullying by modeling and promoting appropriate behaviour and respect for others at all times.

Protection

Bullying is behaviour defined as the repeated attack, physical, psychological, social, or verbal; in nature and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group causing distress for their own gain or gratification.

Bullying takes many forms, our school considers the following behaviours as examples of bullying:

- **Physical:** Pushing/ shoving, hitting / punching, kicking, throwing objects, taking others belongings / stealing from others, damaging others belongings, spitting at others, intimidation – making someone do something against his or her will, messing up other people's games.
- **Verbal:** Threatening, name calling / teasing, swearing at others, ridicule (making fun) of another person because of their actions, appearance, physical characteristics or cultural background, mocking/put downs, offensive names/comments about others or families, gossip and harassment.
- **Psychological:** Spreading rumours, excluding others, writing notes, SMS messages / email, hurtful looks, rude gestures, deliberately ignoring, writing graffiti about others.
- **Cyber-bullying:** Any of the following using electronic media including instant messaging, email, interactive game console play etc:- threatening, name calling / teasing, swearing at others, ridicule (making fun) of another person because of their actions, appearance, physical characteristics or cultural background, mocking/put downs, offensive names / comments about others or families, gossip and harassment.

As a staff and school community, we have a responsibility to take positive and consistent actions to deal effectively with bullying.

Staff responsibilities:

- To model appropriate behaviour at all times.
- To monitor and track incidences of bullying and take appropriate action.
- To implement school programs, which promote positive relationships that incorporate strategies to deal with bullying.
- To communicate bullying incidents with parents when needed.
- To embed anti-bullying messages into each curriculum area and in every year.

Student responsibilities:

- To show respect, consideration and support of others.
- To “tell” if they are being bullied or if they see someone being bullied – both at school and on the way to and from school.
- To attempt to use learnt strategies to deal with bullying incidents.

Parent responsibilities:

- To support the school’s Anti-Bullying Policy.
- To take an active role in their child’s school life and watch for signs that their child may be being bullied.
- To encourage their child to adopt learnt strategies to deal with bullying.
- To instruct their child to “tell” if they are bullied.
- To inform the school if any bullying is suspected

Bullying behaviour is not: a situation of mutual conflict, single episodes of nastiness, students not getting along well or random acts of aggression or intimidation.

Prevention

At Bass Hill Public School, we aim to:

- Develop an awareness amongst students of the nature and consequences of Bullying.
- Empower students to identify bullying behaviours and to help decrease it wherever possible.

The following strategies and programs to embed the Anti-bullying message for bullying prevention:

- School PBL Program
- Reward System
- Student Representative Council
- Child protection lessons across all stages
- School Social Emotional Learning Program

Early Intervention

Bass Hill Public School delivers programs and implements strategies that support students to develop an understanding of bullying and its impact on individuals and the broader community. These include:-

- Students being encouraged to report bullying incidents involving themselves or others.
- Responding quickly and effectively to reported incidences of inappropriate behaviour, including bullying behaviour.
- Parents encouraged to report school related bullying behaviour to the school.
- Students being publically acknowledged and recognised for displaying appropriate behaviours.

Response

Instances of bullying will be responded to in a timely manner in accordance with the school's Anti-Bullying Plan:

- Once identified, the bully, victim and witnesses support information gathering.
- Consideration as to why the bullying occurred will be investigated. (e.g. The bigger picture or contributing factors).
- Both bully and victim are to be offered assistance and support.
- Both bully and victim to engage in restitution, reinforcing the concept of Rights and Responsibilities and encouraging each student to take responsibility for their own action.
- A meeting of relevant persons to be convened following identification of on-going bullying behaviour. All issues relevant to the behaviour of the student are considered.

The school's Anti-Bullying plan will be made widely available to the school community on our school website.

School contact information

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