



TINTINARA AREA SCHOOL

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

TOGETHER ACHIEVE SUCCESS

Important information for students, parents and staff.

WHY HAVE A BULLYING POLICY?

Schools should be a safe and pleasant place to be for all members of the school community - including students, staff, parents/caregivers and visitors.

Bullying is not acceptable at Tintinara Area School. It can be a criminal offence if there is physical violence or threats and anyone over the age of 10 may be dealt with by the law.

Students, teachers, school support officers, other staff, parent/caregivers and visitors have a right to feel safe in our school.

WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is any repeated and deliberate cruel or hurtful behaviour by one person or group towards another. It includes:

- *physical violence (eg pushing, punching, hitting)*
- *leaving someone out of activities on purpose*
- *spreading rumours and name calling*
- *damaging, removing or hiding belongings*
- *racist and sexist remarks and put downs*
- *forcing someone to do something they don't want to*
- *humiliating or ridiculing another*
- *invasion of personal space*
- *offensive electronic media including by computer or mobile phone*
- *sexual comments and harassment*

COMMON AND UNACCEPTABLE EXCUSES USED BY BULLIES

"It was only a joke"

If not everyone is laughing then it was either not a joke or it was in poor taste and directed at someone. If the victim of the joke doesn't think it is a joke then it is bullying or harassment.

"We were only playing"

This is a poor excuse for leaving someone bruised or hurt. If the person hurt was not playing then it was not a game.

"It was only an accident"

If it was an accident then the bully would do what people normally do - seek help for the victim. If the bully did not assist the victim then it cannot be accepted as an accident.

"I found it"

If you really found something then why keep it? The school has a lost property section where goods can be taken. There is no reason for keeping property that doesn't belong to you.

COMMON THOUGHTS OF A PERSON BEING BULLIED

"I'll make it worse for myself if I report it"

To continue to let bullying happen will make it worse. You will be letting the bully know that it is okay to continue to hurt yourself and others.



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"I don't want to cause trouble"

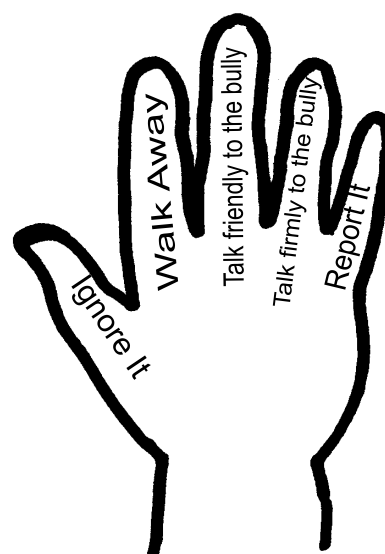
Bullying is usually sorted out quickly when reported. You are only standing up for yourself and the right to feel safe.

"Everyone gets bullied at some time"

Everyone has the right to feel safe at all times and in all places. It is not acceptable or normal for people to be victimised. Unless everyone is determined to bring about changes and rid the school of bullies it won't happen.

WHAT STUDENTS CAN DO

- Do not bully others yourself - that includes all the behaviours listed earlier in this brochure.
- Talk about bullying openly.
- Talk to your parents or a trusted adult.
- Don't act like a victim. Be strong in rejecting others' behaviour and don't give the bully any satisfaction.
- If you are being bullied **tell** someone you trust, eg friend, parents, teacher, counsellor, school support officer.
- If you think that you might have been a bully, talk to the victim, a teacher or other adult. They will help you and talk to you about your behaviour.
- Talk to the School Counsellor.
- **Your role as a bystander is important.** If you see someone being bullied, speak out or report it.



STOP BULLYING NOW!

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

- **Get the Story.** Find out what exactly happened, who was involved, when, where and whether there was any provocation.
- **Support your child.** Talk through the situation and agree upon what action will be taken. If your child is the bully, separate the behaviour from the person. Let them know that you will support them to work through the situation. If your child is the victim, ask how you may best help them and assure them that they have done the right thing in reporting the bullying incident.
- **Listen to your child's opinions and feelings.**
- **Do not attempt to sort out the bullies yourself.** This may worsen the situation.
- **Make an appointment with the relevant person at the school,** eg class or home group teacher. Without an appointment, they may not be able to provide adequate time for discussion. Therefore your meeting may not be as useful as you would like it to be.
- At the meeting **calmly present the concern and explain** that you are hoping to work out some solution with their help. Look for ways that all parties can work together on the problem.



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WHAT THE SCHOOL WILL DO

- Provide a safe, secure environment for students, staff and visitors.
- Provide a supportive environment, which encourages positive relationships between students, their peers and teachers.
- Implement the Student Code of Conduct, School Discipline Policy and Bullying Policy in a consistent and fair manner.
- Include material on bullying, tolerance and positive social behaviours in the curriculum.
- Respond to all reports of bullying by students.
- Keep a hard copy record about bullying incidents.
- Meet with students and parents to work through the problem, if necessary.
- Provide counselling.

SAMPLE INCIDENT REPORT	
To be completed by teachers To be given to co-ordinator	
STUDENT NAME: _____	
YEAR LEVEL/GROUP: _____	
SUBJECT: _____	
LESSON NO: _____	
DATE: _____ LOCATION: _____	
TEACHER: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/>	CLASSROOM BEHAVIOUR
<input type="checkbox"/>	BULLYING
<input type="checkbox"/>	HARASSMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	SEXUAL HARASSMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	YARD BEHAVIOUR
<input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF BEHAVIOUR:	

TEACHER ACTION:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Warning
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referred to leadership/counsellor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow/Green Sheet
FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	YES