

Cyber bullying Policy- 2017



Niddrie Primary School

Commitment to Child Safety

Niddrie Primary School is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision making. Niddrie Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Niddrie Primary School is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and / or linguistically diverse backgrounds, vulnerable children as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Every person involved in Niddrie Primary School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/ she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

Definition:

Bullying is when someone, or a group of people, upset or create a risk to another person's health and safety – either psychologically or physically – or their property, reputation or social acceptance on more than one occasion. Bullies deliberately set out to intimidate, exclude, threaten and/or hurt others repeatedly. Bullying is a clear form of harassment. People who use the internet, email, intranets, phones or similar technologies to bully others are cyber bullies.

Rational:

Bullying in any form is unacceptable. Bullying that is carried out through an internet service, such as email, internet, chat room, discussion group or instant messaging or through mobile phone technologies such as short messaging service (SMS) is cyber bullying. Cyber bullying will not be tolerated at any level, and consequences exist for students who choose to bully others.

Aims:

To reinforce what cyber bullying is and the fact that it is unacceptable.

For all those within the school community to be alert to signs and evidence of cyber bullying and to report it to staff if and when it occurs.

To ensure that all reported incidents of cyber bullying are investigated 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:

Regular professional development on cyber bullying will be provided to staff.

Students and parents will receive regular information sessions keeping them informed of cyber bullying issues and information.

The school will adopt a four-phase approach to bullying.

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Primary Prevention:

Professional development for staff relating to all forms of bullying including cyber bullying. Harassment and proven counter measures.

Educate the school community about the seriousness of cyber bullying, its impact on those being bullied and how this behaviour is unacceptable.

Build community awareness and input relating to bullying (including cyber-bullying), its characteristics and the schools' programs and response.

Provide programs that promote resilience, life and social skill, assertiveness, conflict resolution and problem solving.

Each classroom teacher to clarify with students at the start of each year the school policy on bullying, including cyber-bullying.

The curriculum to include anti-bullying messages and strategies

Early Intervention:

Encourage children and staff to report bullying incidents involving themselves or others.

Classroom teachers and principal on a regular basis reminding students and staff to report incidents of bullying.

Parents encouraged to contact school if they become aware of a problem.

Intervention:

Once identified each bully, victim and witnesses will be spoken with, and all incidents or allegations of bullying will be fully investigated and documented.

Parents to be contacted.

Students and staff identified by others as bullied will be informed of allegations

Both bullies and victims will be offered counselling and support.

Removal of cyber bullies from access to the school's network and computers for a period of time.

If student bullying persists parents will be contacted and consequences implemented consistent with the school's Behaviour Management Policy.

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Consequences:

Consequences for students may involve:-

- exclusion from yard
- school suspension
- withdrawal of privileges
- ongoing counselling from appropriate agency for both victim and bully
- reinforcement of positive behaviours.

Evaluation:

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