



Anti-Bullying Policy

Ferry Grove State High School does not tolerate bullying in any form.

Rationale

The Ferry Grove State High School community should be able to enjoy a safe and supportive environment free from harassment and intimidation. The school Responsible Behaviour Plan is based on our four stated values: excellence in **learning**; **respect** for people and our environment; **safe** and supportive actions and **people** working in **partnerships** to enhance relationships and enhance outcomes. Bullying breaches these values and affects everyone, not just bullies and victims. It also affects all those who may witness bullying and the distress of the victim. Bullying can damage the desire for learning in a class and even the climate of the school.

What is bullying?

Bullying is an act of aggression causing embarrassment, pain and discomfort to another.

- Bullying can take many forms including physical, verbal, gesture, blackmail, innuendo and exclusion.
- It is an imbalance of power and involves inappropriate actions.
- Bullying may be planned and organized or intentional without thinking.
- Individuals or groups may be involved.
- It is repeated.

Some examples of bullying:

- Physical violence
- Interfering with another's property
- Using offensive or inappropriate language Put downs
- Writing offensive messages – (could be in electronic format)
- Making degrading comments based on another person's race, family, colour, culture, religion or social background
- Threatening
- Social exclusion

Cyberbullying is the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated and hostile behaviour by an individual or group that is intended to harm others. Cyberbullying occurs through a range of media which may include: email; text messages; personal websites; social networking sites; gaming sites; video and photographs.

Results of bullying:

The results of bullying can be very serious for all involved.

Stress, anger, poor self esteem, depression and even suicide may result for the victim. Academic performance is reduced and truancy may result from bullying. Inappropriate aggression may result in suspension and exclusion for the bully. They may fail to develop important skills like co-operation, conflict resolution and the ability to form meaningful relationships.

What we do to prevent bullying at Ferny Grove State High School?

All members of the school community, staff, students and parents have an obligation to report all incidents of bullying. Telling about bullying is not “dobbing” or “telling tales”. Instead it is “reporting inappropriate behaviour”. This is the responsibility of all members of the school community. **Staff should:**

- Be role models in word and action.
- Be observant of signs of distress or suspected incidents of bullying.
- Supervise actively during playground duty.
- Support students involved.
- Document incidents of bullying on One School and actions taken to reduce inappropriate behaviour and support the victim.
- Report actual and suspected incidents of bullying to the appropriate staff member including the Year Level Coordinator, Deputy Principal or Guidance Officer for further action.

Students should:

1. Stopping bullying starts with you:
 - Treat everyone with respect.
 - Know that put downs hurt others.
 - Help others who are being bullied by reporting, telling etc.
2. If someone tries to bully you:
 - Ignore them if possible.
 - If you can look them in the eye, tell them to “stop” and then walk away.
 - Ask for support from an adult.
 - Go to places where you feel safe.
3. If you have been bullied:
 - Talk to an adult (parent, teacher, peer mediator) who can help stop the bullying.
 - Seek support from friends.
 - Keep on asking for support until the bullying is stopped.

Parents and guardians should:

1. Watch for signs of distress in your child.
2. Take an active interest in your student’s social life, friends and acquaintances. Monitor usage of social networking.
3. Advise your student to tell a staff member about the incident.
4. Keep a written record if the bullying persists (who, what, where and when).
5. Parents/guardians should report cases of bullying to the Form teacher, Year Level Coordinator, member of the Student Centre (Guidance Officer, School Nurse, Chaplain, Defence Transition Mentor) or a member of the Administration.
6. Assure your student that there is nothing wrong with them
7. Do NOT encourage your student to respond physically or with verbal abuse.

STAFF, STUDENTS AND PARENTS MUST WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT WHICH IS SAFE AND HARASSMENT FREE FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

Additional Resources:

Code of School Behaviour, Better Behaviour Better Learning

<http://education.qld.gov.au/publication/production/reports/pdfs/code-school-behaviour-a4.pdf>

Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students <http://education.qld.gov.au/student-services/behaviour/bm-plans.html>

Bullying. No Way! <http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au/>

Alannah and Madeline Foundation Cybersafety website <http://www.amf.org.au/Cybersafety/>

Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) Cybersmart website <http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/>