



## Murray Bridge North School

# Anti-Bullying Policy

Our goal is to create a respectful learning environment that is safe and supportive for the whole school community.

**Bullying behaviours are *unacceptable* and will not be tolerated at Murray Bridge North School.**

### **Definition of Bullying:**

*Bullying is repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. Cyber-bullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies such as the internet and mobile phones.*

**Bullying is repeated and hurtful.**

**Ratified MBNS Governing Council 12.5.15**



**Government of South Australia**

Department for Education and  
Child Development

# TYPES OF BULLYING

## Overt (face to face) bullying

Overt bullying (or direct bullying) involves physical actions such as punching, kicking or overt verbal actions such as name calling and insulting.



## Covert bullying

Covert bullying (or indirect bullying) is a subtle type of non-physical bullying which isn't easily seen by others and is conducted out of sight, and therefore often unnoticed by others.

Covert bullying behaviours inflict harm by damaging either another's social reputation, peer relationships or self-esteem.

Covert bullying can include repeatedly:

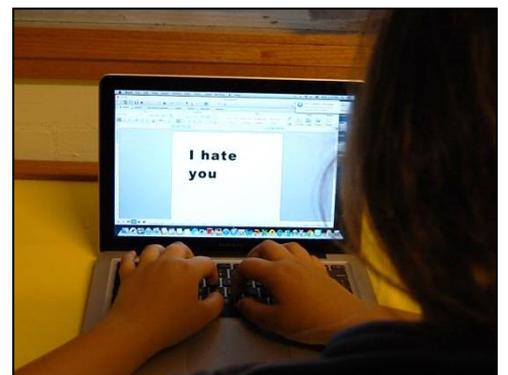
- using hand gestures and weird or threatening looks
- whispering, excluding, intentionally turning your back on a person to offend
- blackmailing, spreading rumours, threatening, stealing friends
- breaking secrets, gossiping, criticising clothes, personalities and appearance



## CYBER-BULLYING

Cyber bullying can be conducted in many ways such as:

- sending abusive messages or emails
- taking and sharing photos without permission
- posting unkind messages or inappropriate images on social networking sites
- assuming the identity of the victim online and representing them in a negative manner



**Bullying behaviour will be dealt with using our school's Learning Behaviours Policy.**

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Model respectful behaviours at all times, reflecting school values.
- Support someone who is being bullied.
- Use Learner Voice to encourage students to raise awareness of bullying and appropriate strategies
- Report bullying to a teacher or trusted adult.
- Don't retaliate but try some strategies to solve the issue, e.g. Ken Rigby's "High Five".



## STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

- Model respectful behaviours at all times, reflecting school values and DECD Code of Conduct.
- Develop skills in students that empower them to take responsibility for themselves and their actions e.g. conflict resolution, anger management and problem solving.
- Explicitly teach grievance procedures and give students opportunities to practise using them.
- Support members of the school community to deal with incidents of bullying using Restorative Justice strategies.
- Follow up reports of bullying, including investigating and documenting incidents, according to DECD guidelines.
- Staff to inform the Leadership team of incidents that require investigating, etc.



## FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Model respectful behaviours at all times, reflecting school values.
- **Inform the school** if a bullying incident occurs, allowing the staff to follow it up.
- Listen and keep the communication lines open with your child.

## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

DECD Parent Helpline – 1800 222 696

Kids Help Line – 1800 551 800  
[www.kidshelpline.com.au](http://www.kidshelpline.com.au)

Bullying No Way  
[www.bullyingnoway.com.au](http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au)

Youth beyondblue  
[www.youthbeyondblue.com](http://www.youthbeyondblue.com)

Reach Out  
<http://au.reachout.com/>

Australian Communication and  
Media Authority's advice for Parents  
[www.cybersmart.gov.au](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au)

Parenting SA Parent Easy Guides  
[www.parenting.sa.gov.au](http://www.parenting.sa.gov.au)

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