Bradfordville Public School

Anti-Bullying Policy

**Purpose:** To ensure that all students at Bradfordville Public School have the opportunity to learn in a safe, caring environment

**Date:** April, 2015

**Aim:** To implement the Department of Education and Communities’ Anti-Bullying Policy.

**Statement of Purpose**

- Bradfordville Public School does not tolerate bullying in any form.
- All members of the Staff and School Community are committed to ensuring a safe and caring environment which promotes personal growth and positive self-esteem for all.
- This is reflected in the Student Welfare Policy and School Fair Discipline Code which includes the following statement relevant to this policy:

  "**Students will be safe in the school environment**"

At our school, all people have the following rights and responsibilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Right</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All people have the right to work and play in a safe and pleasant environment.</td>
<td>All people should:</td>
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<td>- follow playground rules</td>
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<td>- follow school &amp; classroom rules</td>
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<td>All people have the right to be treated with respect.</td>
<td>All people should</td>
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<td>- speak to others in a polite manner</td>
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<td>- treat other people in a caring manner</td>
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<td>- leave other people’s belongings alone</td>
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<td>- obey directions from people in authority</td>
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What is Bullying?

- Bullying is an act of aggression causing embarrassment, pain or discomfort to another:
  - It can take a number of forms:
    - physical,
    - verbal,
    - gesture,
    - extortion and
    - exclusion
  - It is an abuse of power
  - It can be planned and organised or spontaneous
  - Individuals or groups may be involved

What are the Elements of Bullying? (any of these)

- An initial desire to hurt
- That desire expressed in action
- That action is hurtful
- It is directed by a more powerful person or group against someone less powerful
- It is without justification
- It can occur repeatedly
- It is carried out with evident enjoyment

Examples of Bullying include:

- Any form of physical violence such as hitting, pushing, kicking or spitting on others
- Interfering with another's property by stealing, hiding, damaging or destroying it
- Using offensive names, teasing or spreading rumours about others or their families
- Using put-downs, belittling others' abilities and achievements
- Writing offensive notes or graffiti about others
- Making degrading comments about another’s culture religious or social background
- Hurtfully excluding others from a group
- Making suggestive comments or other forms of sexual abuse
- Ridiculing another's appearance
- Forcing others to act against their will
- Cyber Bullying i.e. examples above posted online

Managing Bullying:

If we are bullied:

- We may feel frightened, unsafe, embarrassed, angry or unfairly treated
- Our work, sleep and ability to concentrate may suffer
- Our relationships with our family and friends may deteriorate
- We may feel confused and not know what to do about the problem
What do we do to Prevent Bullying at Bradfordville Public School?

As a school community we will not allow cases of bullying to go unreported but will speak up, even at risk to ourselves.

1. This requires staff to:
   a) Be role models in word and action at all times
   b) Be observant of signs of distress or suspected incidents of bullying
   c) Make efforts to remove occasions for bullying by actively patrolling during supervision duty
   d) Participate fully in the delivery of whole school anti-bullying programs to their students
   e) Take steps to help victims and remove sources of distress without placing the victim at further risk
   f) Report suspected incidents to the appropriate staff member such as Class teacher, Supervisor or other Executive, who will follow the designated procedures.

2. This requires students to:
   a) Refuse to be involved in any bullying situation.

       If you are present when bullying occurs:
       o take some form of preventative action;
       o report the incident or suspected incident.

If students who are being bullied have the courage to speak out, they may help to reduce pain for themselves and other potential victims.

3) The school recommends that parents:
   a) Watch for signs of distress in their child, e.g. unwillingness to attend school, a pattern of headaches, missing equipment, requests for extra money, damaged clothes or bruising;
   b) Take an active interest in their child’s social life and acquaintances;
   c) Advise their child to tell a staff member about the incident. If possible allow her/him to report and deal with the problem her/himself. A student can gain much respect through taking the initiative and dealing with the problem without direct parental involvement.
   d) Inform the school if bullying is suspected;
   e) Keep a written record (who, what, when, where, why, how) to inform the school
   f) Do not encourage their child to retaliate
   g) Communicate to their child that parental involvement, if necessary, will be appropriate for the situation;
   h) Be willing to attend interviews at the school if their child is involved in any bullying incident;
   i) Be willing to inform the school of suspected bullying even if their own child is not directly affected.
   j) Who feel that their child is involved in the act of bullying, discuss the situation with them and/or contact the school for further support.

When staff, students and parents work together we create a happier and safer environment at Bradfordville Public School.
Policy:

Anti-Bullying Plan for Schools PD/2004/0050/V001  9/12/2004

Bullying: Preventing and Responding to Student Bullying in Schools Policy PD/2010/0415/V01

Cyber Bullying: Information for Staff in Schools

Student Welfare, Good Discipline and Effective Learning

Memorandum