

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Bullying is any hurtful behaviour by individuals or groups that causes someone else to feel less powerful, afraid or in any way unsafe.

At Athelstone School every person has a right to feel safe. Any person who bullies another is denying them that right. The school will not tolerate any action that undermines a person's right to feel safe, and will take the necessary steps to stop such behaviour.

Bullying can take many forms. We consider the following behaviours to be bullying:

PHYSICAL

- Hitting, kicking or punching
- Pushing, shoving or spitting
- Poking, blocking or tripping
- Unwanted touching
- Making rude gestures
- Taking or damaging something which belongs to someone else
- Forcing others to hand over food, money or something which belongs to them
- Making someone do something they don't want to

VERBAL

- Name calling
- Teasing
- Bossing
- Threatening
- Shouting in someone's face
- Making fun of someone because of their appearance, physical characteristics or cultural background
- Making fun of someone's actions
- Passing inappropriate notes and/or drawings.
- Sending inappropriate emails.

INDIRECT

- Excluding others from the game or group
- Talking about others behind their back.

WHAT SHOULD STUDENTS DO?

- If a student is being bullied, they should report the incident to the teacher, a senior staff member, a senior student or a trusted adult as soon as possible.
- If a student witnesses bullying, they should report the incident to the teacher, a senior staff member or a trusted adult as soon as possible.

WHAT WILL THE SCHOOL DO?

- Listen and talk to the students involved in the bullying.
- Implement relevant consequences for the person who has been bullying others.
- Provide counselling and follow up support where required.
- Keep parents / caregivers informed using formal and informal processes depending on the issue and its severity.

CONSEQUENCES FOR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR MAY INCLUDE:

- Apologies
- Restricted play or loss of privileges
- Removal from the classroom / yard
- Time spent in the office with senior staff
- Internal suspension
- Suspension or exclusion in accordance with the School Discipline Policy.

PROGRAMS WE OFFER TO SUPPORT POSITIVE STUDENT INTERACTIONS:

- Counselling
- Program Achieve
- School Values
- Sports equipment for playtime
- JP Play equipment for playtime
- Pastoral Support Worker