

Mount Barker South Primary School Safe Schools Policy

Our school community believes in the values of Respect, Excellence, Acceptance, Co-operation and Honesty. **(REACH)**

At Mount Barker South Primary School we believe that

- We all have the right to be safe.
- Everyone has a responsibility to help others be safe.
- Everyone has a responsibility to tell teachers about unsafe situations.
- We can help ourselves to be safe by talking to people that we trust

Mount Barker South Primary School does not tolerate bullying in any form. When bullying occurs everyone in our school community is harmed so it is everyone's responsibility to make sure bullying is stopped. All members of the school community are responsible for ensuring a safe and caring environment where learning can happily take place.

Bullying is:

- Unjustifiable behaviour that may be physical, verbal and / or psychological.
- An abuse of power
- Continued harassment
- Behaviour intended to cause fear, distress, or harm to another.
- Behaviour conducted by a more powerful individual or group against a less powerful individual who is unable to effectively resist.

Type of Bullying	Direct	Indirect
Non-Physical	Mean and hurtful name-calling Hurtful teasing Demanding money or possessions Forcing another to do homework or commit offences such as stealing Sexist and racist comments Spreading nasty rumours	Trying to get other students to not like someone
Physical	Hitting, slapping, punching Kicking, pushing, strangling spitting, biting, pinching, scratching, throwing things eg. stones, bark chips, sticks	Getting another person to harm someone
Non-Verbal	Threatening and/or obscene gestures Use of electronic email or mobile phone text messaging	Deliberate exclusion from a group or activity Removing and hiding and/or damaging others' belongings

If you are bullied you can:

- Walk away.
- Tell them to stop- use an ' I ' statement.
- Get help - eg teacher, older student, school counsellor, or parent.
- Be persistent – keep telling your teachers and parents if you continue to be bullied

If you see someone being bullied you:

- Firmly tell the bully to stop- (using the grievance procedure.)
- Stand close to the person being bullied to support them.
- Be a friend to the person being bullied.
- Seek help from an adult.
- Report all bullying.

It is the responsibility of all members of the school community to follow these simple steps to provide a safe and caring environment that is free of bullying.

Ask for Teacher support when needed.

Staff will:-

- Adopt positive classroom management strategies and incorporate safe school, anti-bullying messages in the curriculum.
- Provide positive role models for students.
- Actively counteract bullying behaviour at all times.
- Respond appropriately to all reported incidents of bullying.
- Be visible and mobile during recess and lunchtimes when you are on duty, as a deterrent to possible incidents of bullying.
- Implement 'Program Achieve' and 'Bounce Back' strategies.
- Teach explicitly the Child Protection Curriculum
- Participate in and promote anti bullying seminars
- Provide conflict management models at all opportunities

Parents can:-

- Be aware of the signs of distress in your child.
- Assist your child to discuss the problem with a teacher.
- Discourage any planned retaliation, either physical or verbal, if your child is bullied.
- Discuss positive strategies they can use eg ' I ' statements, asking for assistance from an adult.
- Positively encourage your child to be tolerant and caring.

The school community can:-

- Promote students sense of concern and responsibility.
- Provide positive role models.
- Build self esteem.
- Develop skills and strategies to deal with bullying.
- Encourage communication.
- Promote the school values of **Respect Excellence Acceptance Co-operation and Honesty.**

Management of Bullying Incidents

1. Protect the bullied child from further harm.
2. Write down name/s of the bullied child, others involved in the incident, who reported the incident and the bystanders.
3. Interview the bullied child to find out what happened.
4. Assist the bullied student with strategies they might use to avoid being bullied in the future.
5. Individually interview bystanders (if not possible, refer students to leadership) eg students in various classes
6. Discuss strategies these students might use to avoid bullying in the future.
7. Inform the Deputy Principal.
8. Monitor the situation over the following few days.
9. Where necessary, speak to the class without using any names, circle time, small group meetings, class meeting box.
10. Where appropriate and using discretion, work with parents of the bullied child to assist their child to avoid being bullied in the future. Keep them informed about progress and the measures taken.
11. If necessary, where appropriate and using discretion, inform the parents of the child bullying and work with them to establish joint strategies for behaviour modification.

Children who bully others

Step 1 – Counsel child and explain that they are bullying.

Step 2. -Report to a member of Leadership who will work with the students involved using the principles of Restorative Justice.

Step 3 – Continued bullying – As per the school behaviour management policy. This may involve removal from the playground or classroom. In persistent cases this may lead to take home, suspension and parents involved in a re entry meeting where specific teaching and monitoring strategies are agreed to.

Challenging or urgent incidents

- Immediate notification or assistance from leadership or colleague.
- Move student onlookers away.
- Students involved in the incident may be questioned separately and then together where possible.
- Report of the incident to be recorded.

Challenging Students

- Referral of student to DECS Behaviour team
- Case management of students with persistent aggression.
- Problem solving strategies for dealing with disclosures.
- Use of school's Behaviour Code for violent incidents.

Restorative Justice

Arrange a meeting with all concerned:

- Explain the process, the role of the adult, the need for confidentiality and the rules.
- Provide support for the victim if needed eg an advocate / friend.
- Using the Restorative Questioning technique all participants are asked to state the facts; listen to others; describe how they felt; clearly state what was fair and unfair; determine from participants what needs to be done to resolve the conflict.