



Evanston Gardens Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy

At Evanston Gardens Primary School, we are committed to providing a caring, and friendly environment for all of our students so they can learn in a safe and secure atmosphere. Bullying behaviours of any kind is unacceptable at Evanston Gardens.

If bullying does occur, all students should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a *'telling'* school, which means that *anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell school staff.

Objectives of this Policy

- All staff, students and parents have an understanding of what bullying is
- All staff know the Anti-Bullying Policy and follow it when bullying is reported
- All students and parents know the Anti-Bullying Policy and what they should do if bullying occurs
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Students and parents are assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported
- Bullying of any description will not be tolerated

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of targeted, intentional and ongoing unwanted behaviour towards another student(s) with the intention of hurting, either physically or emotionally. Bullying is not a 'one off' incident of harassment or teasing.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional - deliberately excluding another student
- Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist - racial taunts about skin colour, culture or religion
- Sexual - unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic - comments focussing on a student's sexuality
- Verbal name - calling, threats, sarcasm, spreading rumours or teasing
- Cyber - all areas of internet, such as using social media as a means of harassing another student. Mobile phone threats by text messaging and calls. Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera and video facilities
- Bystander - watching bullying occur and not doing something to stop it and / or reporting it

Why is it important to respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Students who are engaged in bullying behaviours need to learn different ways of behaving. As a school, we have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that they are experiencing bullying behaviours. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)

- begins to truant
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or " go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

Procedures – What will the school do when a report of bullying occurs?

Report bullying incidents to staff immediately. Use the Grievance Procedures to report bullying.

1. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying will be investigated. This will include documentation of the bullying issue.
2. In serious cases parents will be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.
3. The person(s) impacted by bullying will be involved / informed of progress towards resolving the bullying issue.
4. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted.
5. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.

Outcomes – What will happen as an outcome of the investigation in to bullying?

1. A restorative process will be undertaken involving all parties and the agreements will be entered into EDSAS. Other consequences will also take place
2. In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered
3. If possible, the students will be reconciled
4. After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place

Prevention – What does the school do as part of the curriculum?

We will use a number of methods for helping students to prevent bullying. All teachers will use the Child Protection Curriculum and Friendly Schools Programme as a reference for teaching students the skills to prevent, recognize and / or manage bullying.

As and when appropriate, this may include:

- writing a set of school values and Friendly Schools behaviours,
- signing a behaviour contract,
- writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- making up role-plays
- having discussions about bullying and why it matters
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Need more information

- DfE Parent Helpline: 1800222696
- Kids Helpline: 1800551800
- Child & Youth Health Parent Helpline: 1300364100
- <http://www.detya.gov.au/schools/publicat.htm>
- www.bullyingnoway.com.au
- www.kidshelp.com.au
- www.racismnoway.com.au
- www.beyondblue.org.au
- www.headroom.net.au

For information regarding cyber bullying access these web sites:

- www.netalert.net.au
- www.cybersmartkids.com.au