

## SCHOOL STATEMENT OF INTENT TO ADDRESS BULLYING

At Camira State School, we promote a positive school culture for learning and relationships, reflecting of our core values of Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful.

- Bullying behaviour in any form is not acceptable.
- Everyone has the right to a safe and secure learning and working environment.

This policy consists of three components

1. Defining Bullying
2. Preventative strategies
3. Whole school procedures for responding to bullying behaviour

### 1. Defining Bullying

**DEFINITION:** Bullying is the systematic abuse of power.

- Bullying is a form of harassment and persecution.
- Bullying may be defined as a student being exposed, repeatedly and over time, to intentional injury inflicted by one or more other students (Olweus 1993).
- Consequently, bullying is not simply aggressive behaviour related to a relationship problem but **repeated** unfair behaviour in the context of an imbalance of power. (Rigby. K., 2010)

**Repeated and deliberate behaviours include:**

TYPE	EXAMPLE	
Physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical contact hitting</li> <li>• Pushing</li> <li>• Tripping</li> <li>• Spitting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Punching</li> <li>• Physical posturing</li> <li>• Threats of retaliation if students do not behave in certain ways</li> </ul>
Verbal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name calling</li> <li>• Verbal insults</li> <li>• Put downs.</li> <li>• Persuading others to exclude someone (also known as “relational aggression”).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Spreading of rumours or stories</li> <li>• Alienation</li> <li>• Exclusion</li> <li>• Deliberate untruths to damage reputation</li> </ul>
Psychological Non-verbal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inappropriate gestures</li> <li>• Finger signs</li> <li>• Practical jokes where the victim is humiliated</li> <li>• deliberate ignoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rolling eyes</li> <li>• Continual staring</li> <li>• Laughing at comments or mistakes</li> <li>• Leaving out of social events</li> </ul>
Cyber bullying	Abusive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emails</li> <li>• Messages</li> <li>• Phone calls</li> </ul>	Social networking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degrading or defaming comments or pictures</li> </ul>

### 2. Preventative Strategies

At Camira State School the following programs are in place to encourage positive behaviour choices.

- School’s expectations embedded into practice throughout the whole school
- Encouragement and praise of student effort

- Parent contact regarding positive behaviour
- End of term classroom rewards as decided by the teacher
- Class Awards presented on assembly

### **3. Whole school procedures for responding to bullying behaviour**

When handling bullying complaints, staff make it clear to the offender that bullying behaviour is not tolerated within the school community while providing support for the individuals involved. There are five principles that underpin this approach:

1. Students that bully can change their behaviour.
2. Bullying behaviour is the problem, not the person.
3. Harm caused must be acknowledged.
4. Reparation is essential.
5. Bullies and the bullied require support and care.

Morrison, B (2002), *Bullying In Schools: A restorative Justice Approach*, Australian Institute of Criminology.

#### **Bullying behaviour needs to be substantiated**

It is essential to differentiate between bullying behaviour and relationship problems when responding to a reported incident of bullying.

- Bullying is any action which makes another person feel threatened. It involves the inappropriate use of power by one or more persons over another less powerful person or group.
- Bullying is an act that is repeated over time.
- It is a planned and persistent attempt to cause distress.
- Once bullying behaviour has been substantiated, the following processes explain the procedural responsibilities of addressing bullying behaviour.

# Reporting and Addressing Bullying Behaviour Flow Chart

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