



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

At Dakabin State High School we believe that we all have the right to feel safe as we teach and learn and the responsibility to ensure others feel safe. We are committed to working towards a safe and supportive school so that we can all achieve to our maximum potential. It is the responsibility of all members of the school community to promote a safe, supportive environment.

At Dakabin State High School we believe:

- It is important to have positive role models within the school community.
- Each person has the right to be valued and treated with respect.
- Each person has the right to develop in a positive learning environment.
- Classroom teaching about bullying will be complemented by reinforcing the skills, values and strategies that are needed for students to deal effectively with instances of harassment or bullying.

Bullying might include (ongoing);

- **Physical bullying** – hitting, poking, tripping, pushing or damaging someone’s belongings
- **Verbal bullying** – name calling, insults, homophobic or racist remarks and verbal abuse
- **Social bullying** – lying spreading rumours, playing a nasty joke, mimicking and deliberately excluding someone
- **Psychological bullying** – intimidation, manipulation and stalking
- **Cyber bullying** – using technology (such as email, mobile phones, chat rooms, social networking sites etc.) to verbally, socially or psychologically bully

Bullying is not:

- Arguments and disagreements
- Disliking someone
- Single-episode acts of nastiness or spite
- Random acts of aggression or intimidation

Prevention Programs

Effective social skills and positive relationships act to prevent bullying. At Dakabin State High School we promote effective social skills and positive relationships through:

- Awareness and education about bullying and interpersonal skills within teaching and learning programs, including curriculum and alternative programs
- Year Coordinators for students with problems in their year levels. Year Coordinators often become among the first people to hear about any bullying behaviour and will take appropriate action including regular contact with parents.
- Liaisons with professionals
 - Police officer (school-based)
 - Guidance officer
 - Chaplain
 - Youth Worker



Alternative Programs and Human Relationship Education Programs that emphasise tolerance and non-violence can be used depending on the expertise of staff such as Shine, Girls Time Out, Strength, Stay Cool, Reconnect Programs

- Whole school approach against bullying
- Effective means of communication between all members of the school community
- Programs to develop intercultural understanding, pride in our cultural heritage and in our community.

Responses to bullying

Reports of bullying will be investigated and acted upon. Responses to bullying might include support for targets of bullying and perpetrators and/or disciplinary measures.

The teacher will intervene to stop the bullying and help the student to complete an Incident Report Form. The teacher may work with the student or refer the situation to a Year Coordinator or Deputy Principal if serious. Year Coordinators are the first contact in relation to bullying issues.

A teacher, Year Coordinator or Deputy Principal may:

- Conduct no-blame mediations and draw up contracts between the victim and the accused.
- Keep track of all bullying reports from all parts of the school.
- Give feedback to the victim on what has happened with their report.
- Offer strategies to cope if the incident occurs again.
- Impart consequences where necessary.

At Dakabin State High School we support targets and perpetrators through a range of in class and support interventions.

Reports of bullying are taken seriously at Dakabin State High School. Students and parents/carers should report bullying directly to the student's Year Level Co-ordinator

Related Websites

National Centre Against Bullying

<http://www.ncab.org.au/about/>

National Safe Schools Framework

http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school_education/publications_resources/profiles/national_safe_schools_framework.htm

