



ALVIE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL STUDENT ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

PURPOSE

Alvie Consolidated School will provide a positive culture where bullying, including cyber-bullying is not accepted, and in so doing, all will have the right of respect from others, the right to learn or to teach, and a right to feel safe and secure in the school environment.

DEFINITION

What is Bullying?

- A person is bullied when they are exposed regularly to negative actions or attitudes on the part of one or more persons. Bullies are people who deliberately set out to intimidate, exclude, threaten and or hurt others over time. They can operate alone or as a group.
- Cyber-bullying is bullying that is carried out through an internet service, such as email, chat room, discussion group or instant messaging. It can also include bullying through mobile phone technologies such as short messaging service (SMS).

Types of Bullying

There are three categories of bullying:

- **Direct physical bullying** e.g. Hitting, tripping, pushing or damaging others property
- **Direct verbal bullying** e.g. Name calling, insults, homophobic or racist remarks, verbal abuse
- **Indirect bullying** e.g.
 - ◇ Lying and spreading rumours
 - ◇ Playing nasty jokes to embarrass and humiliate people
 - ◇ Mimicking
 - ◇ Encouraging others to socially exclude someone
 - ◇ Damaging someone' social reputation and social acceptance
 - ◇ Cyber-bullying, which involves the use of email, text messages or chat rooms to tease, spread rumours, humiliate or defame

GENERAL AIMS

- 1.1 To reinforce within the school community that bullying, including cyber-bullying are serious breaches of the Student Engagement Policy and will not be tolerated in any form.

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- 1.2 Everyone within the school community to be alert to signs and evidence of any type of bullying and to have a responsibility to report it to staff whether as observer or victim.
- 1.3 To ensure that all reported incidents of bullying are addressed promptly and that support is given to both victim and perpetrator.
- 1.4 To seek parental, peer-group support and co-operation at all times.

IMPLEMENTATION

- 2.1 Parents, teachers and the school community will be made aware of the school’s position on bullying.
- 2.3 Primary Prevention, Early Prevention, Intervention and Post Violation strategies and processes will be used to support and manage the maintenance of an anti-bullying environment.
 - A Primary Prevention:**
 - To provide programs that promote resilience, life skills and protective factors.
 - Provide a whole school social and emotional learning strategy that promotes resilience, conflict resolution, assertiveness and problem solving
 - Classroom teachers to clarify at the start of each year the school bullying policy.
 - Staff and students to promote the philosophy of ‘No Put Downs’ and ‘Say No to Bullying’
 - B Early Intervention:**
 - Promote children reporting bullying incidents upon themselves or witnessed.
 - Classroom teachers, on a regular basis, remind students to report incidents, and that reporting is not dobbing.
 - Parents are encouraged to contact the school if they become aware of a problem.
 - C Intervention:**
 - Those identified as being bullied will be counselled.
 - Once identified; bully, victim and witnesses talked with, and all incidents fully investigated and documented.
 - A restorative approach used with the identified bully where appropriate
 - D Further Intervention:**
 - If bullying is ongoing, parents contacted and consequences implemented consistent with school’s Student Engagement Policy
 - Ongoing monitoring of identified bullies.
 - Ongoing counselling from appropriate support agency for both victim and bully.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s four year review cycle.

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