

Springside P-9 College Anti-Bullying Policy



Definition

- Bullying is repeated oppression, physical or psychological to a person by a person or a group. Bullying includes things such as publicly excluding a person from a group; taking or breaking a person's property (and knocking belongings out of their hands or off their desk); teasing; aggressive staring; spitting, grabbing, hitting, kicking, pinching and shoving.
- Cyber bullying is a form of bullying which is carried out through an internet service such as email, chat room, discussion group, online social networking, instant messaging or web pages. It can also include bullying through mobile phone technologies such as SMS. It may involve text or images. Cyber bullying includes things such as teasing, spreading rumours online, sending unwanted messages and defamation.

Rational

Springside P-9 College will provide students with a positive culture where bullying and cyber bullying is not acceptable. As educators we have the responsibility to provide teaching and learning environments that are free from bullying and cyber bullying and that encourages students to develop attitudes and skills that discourages these behaviours. All members of Springside College have the right to teacher and all students have the right to learn and feel safe and secure in the school environment.

Aims:

- to provide a fair and supportive environment free from all forms of Bullying, Cyber Bullying that promotes personal respect, as well as providing physical and emotional safety for all
- to reinforce within the school community what bullying is (including Cyber Bullying) and that it is unacceptable
- everyone within the community to be alert to signs and evidence of bullying and cyber bullying and to have a responsibility to report it to staff whether is it as the observer or the victim
- to ensure that all reported incidence of bullying and cyber bullying are followed up appropriately and that support is given to both victim and perpetrators.
- to seek parental and peer group support and cooperation at all times

Implementation:

- Parents, teachers, students and the community will be aware of the schools position on bullying and cyber bullying
- Teachers will regularly be reminded of their duty of care regarding protection of students from all forms of bullying
- The school will adopt four phase approach of bullying

A. Primary Prevention:

- Professional development for staff relating to all forms of bullying including cyber bullying and proven counter measures.
- Educate the school community about the seriousness of cyber bullying, its impact on those being bullied and how this behaviour is unacceptable
- Community awareness and input relating to bullying (including cyber-bullying), its characteristics and the school's programs and response.
- Provide programs that promote resilience, life and social skills, assertiveness, conflict resolution and problem solving through various groups and programs.
- Each classroom teacher to clarify with students at the start of each year the school policy on bullying and cyber-bullying.
- All students to be provided with individual and confidential computer and network log ins and passwords. Processes to be put in place to ensure tracking of student activity on the school's computer equipment and network. Firewalls to be installed to eliminate outside traffic into the school's network and intranet.
- The use of mobile phones by students during school will result in a consequences
- The curriculum to include anti-bullying messages and strategies eg: 'It's not ok to be a bystander'
- A vigilant and accountable yard duty roster for teachers will be put in place.
- Electives and structured activities available to students at recess and lunch breaks.

B. Early Intervention:

- Encourage children and staff to report bullying incidents involving themselves or others.
- Classroom teachers and principals on a regular basis reminding students and staff to report incidents of bullying.
- Regular monitoring of student traffic on school's computer networks to identify potential problems.
- Parents encouraged to contact school if they become aware of a problem.
- Friendship Stop, The Retreat and Library Activities is a designated safe and quiet place for children to access at recess and lunch times.
- Public recognition and reward for positive behaviour and resolution of problems through RORE awards.

C. Intervention:

- Once identified each bully, victim and witnesses will be spoken with, and all incidents or allegations of bullying will be fully investigated and documented on the Springside Incident Report Template.
- Parents to be contacted and asked to meet with Coordinators and APs.
- Students and staff identified by others as bullies will be informed of allegations.
- Both bullies and victims will be offered counselling and support.

- Removal of cyber-bullies from access to the school's network and computers for 10 days.
- If student bullying persists parents will be contacted and consequences implemented consistent with the school's Student Code of Conduct and Springside Clear Consequences.

D. Post Violation:

- Consequences for students will be individually based and may involve:
 - exclusion from class.
 - exclusion from yard, yard agreements to be implemented.
 - school suspension.
 - withdrawal of privileges.
 - ongoing counselling from appropriate agency for both victim and bully.
- Reinforcement of positive behaviours.
- Ongoing monitoring of identified bullies.
- Rewards for positive behaviour.
- External referrals to appropriate agencies

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the colleges review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by school council in SEPTEMBER 2016