North Beach Primary School

ANTI - BULLYING POLICY

North Beach PS does not tolerate bullying or harassment.

At North Beach PS we seek the following outcomes:
- The right of all students to learn is preserved
- The need to act responsibly is fostered
- The right to attend without fear is ensured

At North Beach PS we use this process to deal with Bullying Issues:

1. Bullying incident has occurred at school.
2. Administration investigates and gathers information.
3. Class teacher to use Program Achieve “HTFB” or appropriate strategy to manage issue.
4. Possibility of training in appropriate skills for bully or victim as discussed with Psych.
5. Review and monitoring of students takes place after 1 week and 3 weeks by the class teacher and admin. Follow up occurs to ensure all bullying has stopped.
6. If a student continues to be involved in minor incidents and does not improve his/her behaviour then the student will be dealt with by the administration.
7. Minor incident.
8. Major incident involving emotional or physical trauma.
9. Appropriate action determined depending on situation. This may be No Blame/Shared Concern and/or Disciplinary consequence as determined by BMIS Policy.
10. Parents and class teacher of bully and victim notified.

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DEFINITION OF BULLYING

BULLYING IS THE WILFUL DESIRE TO HURT, THREATEN OR EMBARRASS SOMEONE.

ACTS OF BULLYING

- Verbally – nasty name calling, taunting, teasing, spreading gossip.
- Threat of physical harm / intimidation.
- Written abuse – writing or sending nasty notes, emails, texts etc.
- Sexual or sex based harassment.
- Physical Harm – by physical contact.
- Extortion – demand for money or favours.
- Exclusion – deliberately leaving someone out of an activity.
- Interference with personal property.

INDICATIONS OF BULLYING

There is no sure way of knowing that a young person is being bullied. The student may show the following signs:

- Be frightened of walking to or from school and around school.
- Be unwilling to go to school.
- Want to be driven to school.
- Change their route to school.
- Begin to do poorly in their school work.
- Come home regularly with clothes or books destroyed.
- Become withdrawn.
- Change their eating habits.
- Cry themselves to sleep.
- Have nightmares.
- Have unexplained bruises, scratches or cuts.
- Ask for money or begin stealing to pay the bully.
- Continually lose their money.
- Refuse to say what is wrong.
- Be late to class.
- Refuse to work in a particular group or sit next to a particular student.
- Sudden outbursts of temper.
- Mood swings – snappy, withdrawn, tired, hitting out, outbursts of crying.
- Withdrawn from social activities with peers.
- Go to a safe place or see a teacher.
- Incidents of bullying to be reported to the Principal / Deputy.

WHAT A STUDENT CAN DO ABOUT BULLYING AND HARASSMENT.

Student should not retaliate by physical or verbal bullying.
Simply knowing that you can do something about it makes a difference.

Here are some ideas.

- Share your feelings with others. Talk about it with friends, parents, a teacher or someone you think can help.
- Ignore it. Show that it does not upset you. The bully is not encouraged and it may stop.
- Do not continue to ignore bullying if it does not stop. DO something, SAY something. IT’S O.K. to TELL!
- Confront the person bullying you. Tell them that their actions are unwanted and are against school policy.
- Encourage talking; it may be difficult but be patient.
- Try not to over react, listen calmly and try to work out the facts.
- Be sensitive in areas such as ‘names’ the young person is called.
- Give assurances that the situation will be changed.
- Assure the young person that it happens to most people at some time, we learn to avoid it or cope with it or confront it.
- Reassure the young person that it is not happening because there is something wrong with them.
- Identify reasons why bullies are hurtful and explain that not responding helps in stopping the unwanted behaviour.
- Talk with other parents, teachers and share ideas and experiences.
- Formally report to a member of staff, even if unsure of the extent of bullying, they will now be alert to the possibility of a problem.

BULLYING IS UNCOOL AT OUR SCHOOL