Kirrawee Public School

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY
Policy Statement

*Kirrawee Public School* does not tolerate bullying in any form, which corresponds with the NSW Department of Education and Training policy and the provisions of the Child Protection Act.

The school is committed to the building of positive peer relationships. We need to empower the whole school community to recognise and respond appropriately to bullying and harassment. Together we need to ensure the wellbeing of all students.

Definition

As defined by the NSW Department of Education and Training:

“**Bullying involves the abuse of power with the intention of causing distress to other persons(s), or for personal gain or gratification. Bullying may include repeated behaviour that can be covert and subtle, be social, psychological, verbal, physical and/or sexual in nature.**”

Aims of the policy

1) to create a supportive environment committed to student welfare needs
2) to pro-actively promote a school climate where bullying behaviours are not tolerated and are infrequent in incidence
3) expectations of the school’s anti-bullying policy are shared and supported by the wider school community.

Anti-Bullying Code

Bullying is serious. Bullying will not be tolerated at *Kirrawee Public School*. Bullying affects learning and can have long term effects on the development of a child. Every student has the right to quality education in a secure and supportive environment where they learn and grow with confidence. Students will recognise the need to report and staff will respond to all incidents. Appropriate action will be taken.

Each member of the *Kirrawee Public School* community (students, teachers, parents and wider community) shares the collective responsibility to ensure everyone feels safe, supported and valued at all times. Bullying is never acceptable.

Preventative Strategies

The following strategies aim to develop an awareness amongst students of the nature of bullying, its consequences, how they can help to decrease it and what to do if they are bullied:

- Personal development units on anti-bullying to be taught each year K-6.
- The effective use of playground time and playing constructive games are encouraged.
- Quiet areas in the playground are provided.
- Children are provided with opportunities to report bullying behaviours of others.
- Students have access to staff support and counsellor services.
Discipline

It will be made clear through the school discipline policy that bullying is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

Every incident of bullying is unique. Staff should follow the existing school discipline procedures when dealing with bullying.

All incidents of bullying need to be recorded onto the student welfare (profile) system. Through the planning room/detention system, executive staff are responsible for all data entries.

For repeat offenders a referral form is completed for the school counsellor. Students who persist in bullying despite counselling and support may be suspended from school.

Role of Students

Students will adopt an assertive, sequential response to all incidents of bullying involving themselves or others. Tell the bully to stop.
If the bullying does not cease immediately, or has caused physical or emotional harm, students will tell someone in authority. (teacher, administration officer, assistant principal or principal)

Role of Staff

Everyone in the school should be aware of the early warning signs of potential bullying and must respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all incidents - irrespective of how minor they appear to be.
All staff should ensure that bullying or threatening behaviour is not tolerated anywhere in our school. Staff will model appropriate behaviour that reflects sensitivity to the needs, rights and feelings of others.

Role of School Community

Parents and caregivers have a responsibility to:

- be aware of the school discipline and anti-bullying policy and assist their children in understanding bullying behaviour
- support their children in developing positive responses to incidents of bullying, consistent with the school anti-bullying strategy
- encourage their child to tell someone at school about any bullying that might have occurred
- be prepared to work with the school to resolve this issue/s.

Conclusion

Each of us has a responsibility to reduce aggression in our society. By working together we can maintain a safe and happy school.