

Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy

Miandetta Primary School

Policy Statement

Miandetta Primary School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, caring and respectful environment which actively works against bullying, harassment and violence.

Definitions of Bullying

- *Bullying* is repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. It is intended to cause harm, distress and create fear.
- *Cyber bullying* is bullying that is carried out through the internet or mobile phone technologies.
- *Harassment* is abuse of power that can affect safety and wellbeing.

(Department of Education, Tasmania, 2015)

Bullying is not:

- Mutual conflict, social rejection, single-episode acts

Aims

- To encourage the development of a school community that is safe, secure and inclusive.
- To build awareness of bullying, harassment and violence including regularly communicating that no form of bullying is acceptable.
- To provide advice on the roles and responsibilities of the whole school community including students, teachers and parents.
- To encourage all students to take action if bullying, harassment or violence occurs.
- To develop clear procedures, strategies and restorative practices to enable appropriate response to reported occurrences of bullying, harassment or violence.

Actions

Students should:

- Refuse to take part in bullying, harassment or acts of violence
- Speak up if they see someone being bullied or harassed
- Report to a teacher if they experience bullying or harassment

Staff should:

- Explicitly teach strategies from Bounce Back, KidsMatter and through class meetings to empower students to respond to conflict in constructive ways
- Be familiar with and use a variety of interventions and processes and respond promptly to reports of bullying. This may include reporting to the class teacher, sharing information with colleagues, recording instances in relevant documents, reporting concerns to senior staff and contacting parents

Parents should:

- Encourage their child to talk about and report if they are feeling bullied
- Communicate with the class teacher about concerns or speak to senior staff if required
- Avoid confrontation or personal accusations of students suspected of bullying
- Be aware of their child's friends and presence on social media