MOOREBANK HIGH SCHOOL ANTI-BULLYING PLAN

Plan Statement

The Anti-bullying Plan is a key part of the school’s planning for student wellbeing and effective learning. It complements the school’s Student Welfare and Discipline Policies.

- Public schools are inclusive environments, where diversity is affirmed and individual differences are respected.
- Quality education is provided for students to meet their learning needs in a secure, ordered and supportive environment.
- The focus of quality education is for students to learn and grow with confidence. Students develop best in schools where teaching and learning occur in a context of student welfare.
- The wellbeing, safety and health of students inform school policies, programs and practices.
- Partnership with parents, caregivers, students and the wider community is central to the success of this process.
- Schools exist in a society where intimidation, harassment and victimization occur. Bullying must be taken seriously and is not acceptable in any form.
- Students have the right to expect that they will spend the school day free from the fear of bullying, harassment, intimidation and victimisation.

Bullying Behaviour

Bullying:
- devalues, isolates and frightens
- affects an individual's ability to achieve
- has long-term effects on those engaging in bullying behaviour, those
- who are the subjects of bullying behaviour and the onlookers or bystanders.

Teachers, students, parents, caregivers and members of the wider community have a responsibility to work together to address bullying.

1. Bullying can be defined as repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behavior that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. Cyberbullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies.

2. Bullying can involve humiliation, domination, intimidation, victimization and all forms of harassment including that based on sex, race, disability, homosexuality or transgender. Bullying of any form or for any reason can have long-term effects on those involved including bystanders. Conflict or fights between equals or single incidents are not defined as bullying.
Bullying behaviour can be:

**verbal** eg name calling, teasing, abuse, putdowns, sarcasm, insults, threats

**physical** eg hitting, punching, kicking, scratching, tripping, spitting

**social** eg ignoring, excluding, ostracising, alienating, making inappropriate gestures

**psychological** eg spreading rumours, dirty looks, hiding or damaging possessions, malicious SMS and email messages, inappropriate use of camera phones.

A Statement of Purpose

Students attend school to participate in quality education that will help them to become self directed, lifelong learners who can create a positive future for themselves and the wider community.

- Any inappropriate behaviour that gets in the way of teaching and learning at the school and interferes with the wellbeing of students cannot be accepted.
- Students, teachers, parents, caregivers and members of the wider school community have a shared responsibility to create a safe and happy environment, free from all forms of bullying.
- Students, teachers, parents, caregivers and members of the wider school community can expect, that students will be safe at school, free from fear of bullying, harassment, intimidation and victimization.
- to be involved in the collaborative development of the school Anti-bullying Plan.
- to know what is expected of them and others in relation to the Anti-bullying Plan
- that all students will be provided with appropriate support when bullying occurs.

Students, teachers, parents, caregivers and members of the wider school community have a responsibility to:

- model and promote positive relationships that respect and accept individual differences and diversity within the whole school community
- support the school Anti-bullying plan through words and actions.
- Work collaboratively with the school to resolve incidents of bullying when they occur.

Students can expect to:

- know that their concerns will be responded to by school staff
- be provided with appropriate support (for both the subjects of and those responsible for the behaviour)
- participate in learning experiences that address key understandings and skills relating to positive relationships, safety, gender equity, discrimination, bullying and harassment. These experiences will be guided by the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education syllabuses and other Key Learning Areas.

Students have a responsibility to:

- behave appropriately, respecting individual differences and diversity.
- behave as responsible digital citizens.
- follow the school Anti-bullying Plan.
- Behave as responsible bystanders.
- Report incidents of bullying according to their school Anti-Bullying Plan.
Parents and caregivers have a responsibility to:
- support their children to become responsible citizens and to develop responsible on-line behavior.
- be aware of the school Anti-bullying Plan and assist their children in understanding bullying behavior.
- support their children in developing positive responses to incidents of bullying consistent with the school Anti-bullying Plan.
- Report incidents of school related bullying behavior to the school.
- Work collaboratively with the school to resolve incidents of bullying when they occur.

Teachers have a responsibility to:
- respect and support students
- model and promote appropriate behaviour
- respond in a timely manner to incidents of bullying according to the school Anti-bullying Plan.
- Provide curriculum and pedagogy that supports students to develop an understanding of bullying and its impact on individuals and the broader community.

Strategies to Prevent Bullying
Refer to Child Protection Education
Recognising abuse
Power in relationships
Protective strategies

Strategies to Deal With Bullying
Refer to MHS Behaviour Management Plan and the Anti-Bullying flow chart
Anti Bullying Flow Chart

At all stages students must report any form of bullying in the playground or classroom to the relevant staff member. All staff are to reinforce that any form of bullying must be reported particularly if it continues after intervention.

If bullying is reported or you notice it occurring in the classroom or playground.

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Give the students involved a verbal warning.

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If bullying continues issue a lunch detention.

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If the child who is being bullied seems distressed collect statements from all students involved and follow the Moorebank High School behaviour Management Plan and refer to the appropriate Head Teacher.

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When bullying is referred to the Deputy Principal the student/s responsible may be verbally warned Formally Cautioned, Suspended or other, pending on repeated offences or severity of the bullying.

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Deputy Principal may refer the child who is responsible for bullying to the counsellor, chaplain or youth pathways.

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PGD – Supervising Teacher

a) Deals with the incident immediately
b) Informs the Head Teacher on duty and the Year Advisor.

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Year Advisor touches base to ensure ongoing PGD bullying is not occurring. If it continues:

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Possible counsellor intervention

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Classroom teacher informs the Year advisor.

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Year advisor informed. Year advisor monitors the student being bullied to ensure that it does not continue. May set up parent interview to discuss further strategies.

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Deputy Principal informs the year Advisor.