



# Martins Creek Public School

## Anti-Bullying Policy 2020

This policy outlines our school response to preventing and responding to bullying in our school. It is informed by the NSW Bullying: Preventing and Responding to Student Bullying in Schools Policy.

Ongoing surveys of students and parents of Martins Creek P.S. show that the school community believe that it is important to maintain an environment where everyone feels safe and valued.

### Statement of Purpose

At Martins Creek PS we have adopted Positive Behaviour for Learning to create a culture of high expectations around every student behaving respectfully in order for others to feel happy, safe and ready to learn.

Our three School Values are:

- 1) Respect
- 2) Personal Best
- 3) Resilience

In the context of bullying we identify the following as forms of bullying

- 1) Verbal – name calling, teasing, taunting
- 2) Physical – throwing objects at a person, hitting, kicking, spitting, restraining someone
- 3) Social – excluding a student from opportunities to play and participate
- 4) Psychological – deliberate and sustained spreading of rumours, damaging possessions
- 5) Cyber-bullying

## Preventative Strategies

- PBL expectations of behaviour and safety are defined and reinforced with students in our various school settings
- Peer modelling
- Programs to boost self-esteem of all students – class public speaking, reward systems, PLPs, drama performances.
- Special Days and Events – e.g. Reconciliation Week, Down Syndrome Day.
- PDHPE Programs include units and daily activities training students in social skills and resilience.
- Regular Learning Support Team Meetings to highlight areas of concern regarding academic and social issues including bullying.
- Incursions and excursions – annual Healthy Harald, visits from local government representatives – i.e. police, Responsible Pets, Railway officials – for citizenship and safety
- Teachers and support staff to model respect of others
- Display inspirational posters

## Identifying Bullying

Staff remain vigilant during class and recreation activities to monitor relationships between students, language being used, social skills.

Early intervention by identifying students at risk from bullying informally and during LAST meetings.

Students are made aware of what constitutes bullying and what to do if they are bullied or are bystanders.

Staff have good working relationship with our parents, being a small school and parents/carers are encouraged to discuss any concerns with the class teacher.

## Responding to occurrences of Bullying

### Students

- 1) Tell your teacher immediately.

### Staff

- 1) Listen and respond to student in a timely manner. Acknowledge the matter. Ask open-ended questions to obtain accurate information.
- 2) Follow the Wellbeing System and talk privately to bullies and victims, making a written record of instances of bullying observed and reported.
- 3) Follow the school discipline procedure – contacting parents/carers of students involved as necessary.

### Parents/Carers

- 1) Encourage their children to tell them of any bullying they experience at school.
- 2) Communicate any concerns to the school promptly.
- 3) Support and work collaboratively with school staff and the school's Wellbeing Policy – which supports repair of social relationships for those doing bullying, bystanders and those being bullied.

## Conclusion

This policy to be reviewed annually.