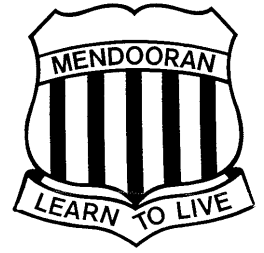


MENDOORAN CENTRAL SCHOOL



Anti-Bullying Policy

Vision Statement

Everyone at Mendooran Central School has a right to feel happy, safe and respected in the learning community. *This includes both staff and students.*

What is Bullying?

Bullying can be defined as the repeated overt or subtle intimidation of a physical, verbal, social or emotional nature of a less powerful person by a more powerful person or group of persons. School bullying can include teasing, exclusion, gesture bullying, abuse, threats, assault, property damage and malicious gossip. A student can be bullied by *either* another child or a teacher. Teachers can also bully other teachers.

School Response to Bullying

Any form of bullying – physical, verbal or emotional – will not be tolerated or accepted at Mendooran Central School.

MCS' Proactive approach to Bullying

School programs are monitored closely to ensure [resilience training](#) is carried out across the whole school. The proactive approach also includes periodic surveying of the whole school cohort, to ascertain their attitude to school and factors and people who affect their happiness at school. The survey is followed up with individual interviews with named bullies and support is offered to help change their behaviour. In some cases students are All staff are in-serviced on the importance of resilience and assertive behaviour, asked to identify a staff mentor to work with. The survey identifies bullying behaviours and indicates the different age/year groups, indicating trends. This information is then included in class programs to help prevent bullying. The survey also identifies safe and unsafe areas in the school, with follow up by School Executive. Feedback includes the students identifying people in the school who respond to bullying. ([Bullying Survey](#))

Students

- Students should report bullying to a staff member they are comfortable with.
- Students will be encouraged to foster a positive and safe work and play environment.

Staff

- Treat all reports as a serious matter, referral if necessary and report on RISC.
- For incidents about bullying staff report to Principal.

Whole School

- Documentation by the teacher on duty/class e.g. date, place, students involved, incident, action taken (RISC Report completed).
- When there is a pattern of bullying behaviours, the Victim/Bully is interviewed by the nominated teacher and asked to complete the Bullying package. They may then be placed on a behaviour card and monitored by the Class Teacher/ Year Adviser.
- If the bullying behaviour continues the student will be referred to the Principal and school counsellor if appropriate and his/her parents will be notified.
- Where the bullying involves a serious physical assault, the Principal will be notified immediately.

Parents/Care-givers

- To be made aware of school's policy on Bullying and to report any concerns.
- To discuss issues with students and to help them to realise that they don't have to put up with bullying.
- Encourage students to be guided by the school and its policy.
- Encourage students to report any incidents of bullying.
- Awareness of Resilience training.

Indicators of Bullying

- Underachievement
- School refusal
- Avoidance of specific lessons
- Change of routine – route to school
- Late for school/ staying late at school
- Lack of confidence, withdrawal from social activities
- Temper flare-ups, abusive language, impulsive hitting out
- Personality change – snappy, withdrawn, tired, outburst of crying, weepiness, loss of appetite
- Desire to work/play near supervising teacher
- Mislaid books, belongings, equipment
- Torn/damaged clothing, belongings
- Bruises, cuts
- Reports from self, peers, parents
- Psychosomatic illnesses
- Jumpiness, forgetfulness

ⁱ G:\FrontOffice\Policies\Resilience2

ⁱⁱ G:\FrontOffice\Policies\AntiBullyingSurvey