

All students have the right to be safe

Torrensville Primary School work together to address bullying issues to ensure that all students and staff are able to achieve their personal best by:

- Valuing and respecting each other
- Being responsible for their own behaviour
- Making the best choices
- Learning and playing in a safe and happy Environment

What is bullying?

Bullying is: when an individual or group of people are repeatedly harassed and made to feel unsafe in their environment.

Bullying can be:

Exclusion: Being ignored, left out on purpose, or not allowed to join in.

Physical: physically harassed and attacked

Lies or Rumours: When lies or nasty stories are told about someone

Threats: Being afraid of getting hurt.

Verbal Abuse and Teasing: Being made fun of and teased in a mean and hurtful way.

Torrensville Primary School, community members have the right to feel safe, and if bullied will be provided with help and support.

Why does bullying happen?

There are many reasons why bullying behaviours are displayed:

- It may be seen as a way of being popular, or making themselves look tough or “cool” and in charge
- It may be to get attention or other people’s personal possessions
- It may be to make other people afraid of them
- It may be that some people are jealous of the person they are bullying
- It may be that they are bullied themselves
- It may be that they do not even understand how wrong their behaviour is and how it makes the bullied person feel

Be a responsible bystander. If you witness bullying behaviour:

DO:

- Report it to a teacher
- Give accurate information about the situation
- Support the victim - by getting help

DON'T:

- Protect the bully by remaining silent
- Stand by and watch

What Can Students Do About Bullying at School?

Prevent Bullying:

- Respect yourself and others
- Provide support to anyone you observe being bullied
- Be assertive
- Be accepting of differences
- Report incidences of bullying

If you are being bullied:

1. Use restorative justice strategies

- Tell the person how they are affecting you and ask them to stop

2. If bullying continues:

- Use the wheel of choice
- Seek help, talk to a trusted adult. It could be your teacher, the Principal or an Assistant Principal

When you feel your personal safety is threatened seek adult help immediately.

School procedures in the Prevention of Bullying Behaviours:

Prevention

Our school community has a commitment to maintain and promote a school culture of respect, harmony and achievement.

We do this by:

Establishing positive learning environments through collaborative practices

- What is a quality learner?
- What is a quality classroom?
- What is a quality schoolyard?
- Agreement of classroom behaviours.

Explicitly teaching about reducing bullying

Teaching relevant social skills: assertiveness, conflict resolution and communication skills to reduce bullying

Whole school Social Skills Program: Play Is the Way, Class meetings, Student Representative Council and Student Ambassadors are forums to improve class and yard behaviours, Cyber Bullying performances

Targeted Intervention programs to support targeted students

Staff Responsibilities

- All reports of bullying are addressed
- The severity of the bullying behaviour will be assessed with appropriate consequences
- Counselling children who have been bullied, the bystanders and the bully using Restorative Justice Practices
- Talking to parents/caregivers

Post Intervention

- Monitoring of students identified through surveys and other reports from students, staff and parents
- Talking with parents or caregivers about strategies
- Reviewing yard duty procedures to ensure they are effective
- Reviewing and evaluating behaviour codes and procedures

What can parents do if their child is being bullied?

If you suspect your child is being bullied, encourage them to talk to you about it.

Listen carefully and sympathetically for the facts

Explore strategies with your child, eg.

- Being more assertive
- Making other friends who can help

Make a time to discuss bullying with the classroom teacher or a member of the leadership team.

You can be assured that the case of bullying you describe will be carefully investigated and dealt with in accordance with the school's Reducing Bullying Policy

Never dismiss the matter by saying your child must stand up to bullies

Sometimes students may be reluctant to attend school. We feel it's important for them to attend to work through concerns restoratively and feel a part of the solution and moving forward.