

ANTI BULLYING POLICY

1. RATIONALE:

Mount Evelyn Primary School will provide a positive culture where bullying is not accepted, and in so doing, all will have the right of respect from others, the right to learn or to teach, and a right to feel safe and secure in their school environment

2. GOALS:

- To ensure that all reported incidents of bullying are followed up appropriately and that support is given to all affected parties.
- To reinforce within the school community what bullying is, and the fact that it is unacceptable.
- All members of the MEPS community can play an active role by reporting incidences of bullying
- To inform parents about incidents of bullying and to enlist their support.

3. DEFINITION:

- Bullying is when someone, or a group of people, who have more power at the time, deliberately upset or hurt another person, damages their property, reputation or social acceptance on more than one occasion. Bullying includes physical, verbal and indirect bullying such as spreading rumours and cyber bullying

4. IMPLEMENTATION:

- The School will have clear explicit procedures for dealing with bullying
- All teachers at MEPS share the responsibility for addressing bullying through class programs and yard duty supervision and by modelling behaviour consistent with school values
- The school community will support the school's whole school strategies to address bullying
- Parents, teachers, students and the community will be aware of the school's position on bullying
- Implementation of anti-bullying and anti-harassment strategies are outlined in the **Prevention** statement of the Student Engagement and Well Being Policy, which needs to be read in conjunction with this policy.

5. PRIMARY PREVENTION

- Provide access to a range of programs that promote resilience, life and social skills, assertiveness, conflict resolution and problem solving on site or through external agencies
- Monitor yard behaviour and continue evaluation to inform planning and to ensure prompt responses to incidences of unsafe or disrespectful yard behaviour
- Explicit teaching of interpersonal skills will be undertaken by classroom teachers
- Promotion of safe and friendly behaviours.
- Ensure a range of activities are available to students at recess and lunch breaks
- Increase community awareness and input relating to bullying, its characteristics and the school's programs and response

6. INTERVENTION

- Promote the reporting of bullying incidents through regular reminders by classroom teachers
- Encourage parents to contact the school if they become aware of a problem
- Fully investigate and document all incidents or allegations of bullying with those involved, including witnesses
- Plan strategically and pro-actively for those students identified through the Early Intervention strategies, ensuring longer term management
- Offer counselling and support for all affected parties
- Consequences for students will be individually based and may involve suspension

7. EVALUATION:

This policy will be reviewed by the Student Wellbeing Committee in 2017 as part of the school's three year review cycle. School Council will be responsible for the ratification of the policy.

The policy was last ratified by School Council in May 2014.