



AVOCA BEACH PUBLIC SCHOOL ANTI-BULLYING PLAN 2022

At Avoca Beach Public School, we revise our Anti-Bullying Plan annually, which details strategies implemented to reduce student bullying behaviour.

Bullying has 3 key features

- Intentional Misuse of power in a relationship
- Ongoing and repeated
- Behaviours that can cause harm

School Culture and Inclusion

At Avoca Beach Public School, all members of the school community are active participants in building a welcoming school culture that values diversity and fosters positive relations. A key component to maintaining our supportive school culture is building and maintaining respectful relationships and an ethos that bullying is not accepted, in both online and offline environments. All staff at Avoca Beach Public School will actively respond to student bullying behaviour.

Our school engages in the following practices to promote that positive school culture. We address bullying and harassment through a number of programs at the school. The strategies listed below try to develop an awareness amongst the school community of the nature and consequences of bullying and harassment, how they can help to decrease it, and what to do if they are bullied or harassed. We also aim to network students to strengthen peer acceptance and support.

- House Families Program – with anti-bullying strategies embedded in the program.
- Buddies – giving young children an older student in which to confide.
- Talks at assembly – to reinforce that bullying is not acceptable.
- Special days – e.g. Harmony Day.
- Regular Student Welfare Team and Learning Support Team meetings.
- Individual conference with victims and bullies.
- Increasing bullying awareness within the PD / Health / PE Program.
- Visiting performances.
- Cyber bullying posters / programs – in class and on our website.
- Professional learning for staff around bullying and cyber bullying.
- Core values
- No Go Tell

Student Assemblies/Programs

| Dates | Communication Topics |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Ongoing throughout the year | Reinforce that bullying is not acceptable. |
| Term 1 | Values - Respect |
| Term 2 | Values - Responsibility |
| Term 3 | Values - Personal Best |
| Term 4 | Values - All PBL Values |

Early Interventions

For students identified as being at risk of developing long-term difficulties with social relationships and / or history of being bullied or engaging in bullying behaviour, the school implements a range of programs. These include:

- Behaviour support for students identified by their classroom teacher.
- Access to and counselling by the Assistant Principals, Principal, School Counsellor.

- Individual conferences with victims, bullies, and families if necessary.
- Classroom management and positive reinforcement programs.
- Friendship group sessions and social stories from Learning Support Team and School Counsellor.
- Risk assessments.
- Health care plans.

Staff Communication and Professional Learning

Staff will be supported with professional learning that provides evidence-based ways to encourage and teach social and emotional wellbeing and discourage, prevent, identify and respond effectively to student bullying behaviour

| Dates | Communication Topics and Professional Learning |
|-----------|---|
| 9/3/2022 | NCCD updates and student profiles |
| 4/5/2022 | Social/Emotional programs – Worry Woos & Friendology |
| 31/1/2022 | Wellbeing Meeting – Individual student profiles and handover to 2022 teachers |

New and Casual Staff will be informed about our school's approaches and strategies to prevent and respond to student bullying behaviour in the following ways:

- Induction from Assistant Principal when they enter for duty.
- Assistant Principal supervising the Stage they are working under.
- Advised to read Avoca Beach Public School Policies including Anti-Bullying Policy and the School Wellbeing Policy.

Partnerships with Families and Community

Effective schools have high levels of parental and community involvement. This involvement is strongly related to improved student learning, attendance and behaviour. Avoca Beach Public School proactively builds collaborative relationships with families and communities to create a shared understanding of how to support student learning, safety and wellbeing.

School website

Our school website has information to support families help their children to regulate their emotions and behaviour and develop socially. Information is provided to assist if children have been involved in bullying behaviour. The following are published on our website:

- School Anti-bullying Plan
- NSW Anti-bullying website link
- Student Wellbeing Policy

Communication with Parents

Our school provides information to parents promoting a positive school culture where bullying is not acceptable to increase parents understanding of how our school addresses all forms of bullying behaviour.

| Dates | Communication methods and topics |
|----------|--|
| Ongoing | School Website/Newsletter/App |
| Monthly | P&C Meetings |
| Annually | Parent/Teacher meetings |
| Ongoing | Parent/Teacher meetings when requested by Parents. |

Support for Wellbeing and Positive Behaviour

Our school's practices support student wellbeing and positive behaviour approaches that align with our community's needs.

Social and emotional skills related to personal safety, resilience, help-seeking and protective behaviours are explicitly taught across the curriculum in PDHPE and specific child protection lessons.

If bullying or harassment occurs, the following actions outlined should be taken.

For Students

- Tell your teacher (preferably your class, or playground teacher) immediately. You may also tell your House Family Leader, School Counsellor, Principal and Assistant Principal.
- Teachers to follow current welfare system. They will then interview bullies and victims.
- Where the bullying involves a serious physical assault, you should immediately report the incident to either your class teacher or the Principal.

For Staff

If a student reports bullying or you witness bullying incidents yourself, it is suggested that:

- You listen and acknowledge the seriousness of the report, no matter how trivial it may at first appear. Question the child to see if this or other such incidents have happened before.
- Follow current welfare system.
- Continued extreme bullying incidents to be recorded detail on Sentral.

For Parents/Caregivers

- Encourage your children to discuss bullying as much as possible. A thorough reading of this policy with your children is highly recommended.
- Discuss with your child strategies to help them deal with the issue.
- Encourage them to follow the procedures outlined above, if they report bullying.
- Contact the school, if your child's efforts to deal with the bullying do not appear to be working.
- When the school's attempts to deal with reported bullying and victimisation do not appear to be working, your assistance may well be sought. In cases of serious physical bullying, you will be automatically involved.



Bullying exists at all levels in our society. We know that the effects of bullying on learning and general adjustment at school can be far reaching for the students involved. We trust that the whole school community can share the responsibility in maintaining a peaceful and safe learning environment.