

THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF PARENTS

As parents you can:

Be aware of the signs of distress in your child, e.g. unwillingness to attend school, a pattern of illness, change in behaviour such as tantrums, grumpiness or withdrawal, missing equipment, requests for extra money, damaged equipment or clothing

Take an active interest in your child's social life and acquaintances.

Assist your child to discuss any incidence of bullying with a teacher. If possible, first allow your child to report and deal with the situation. Your child can gain respect and confidence through taking the initiative and dealing with the problem without direct parental involvement.

If your child is being bullied, discourage any planned retaliation, either physical or verbal, by discussing positive strategies they can use.

Be positive about your child's qualities and encourage your child to be tolerant and caring.

Be willing to attend interviews if your child is involved in an incident of bullying, and work cooperatively with the school.

Be willing to inform the school of any cases of suspected bullying even if your child is not directly involved or affected.

Do not deal directly with the other children or their parents but work through and with the school.

Discuss with your child the school's expectations about behaviour and how best to deal with bullying.

THE RESTORATIVE APPROACH

We use a 'Restorative Approach' to deal with incidents of bullying. Briefly this approach consists of the following:

Individual meetings are held, with each of the students involved in the bullying situation, e.g. the student or students bullying, the person being bullied and any bystanders who may have seen what was happening.

Each student is asked about the problem and to suggest ways in which he or she personally could help to improve the situation.

The person being bullied is also given the opportunity to discuss what happened and encouraged to think of ways to improve the situation.

Follow-up meetings, discussions and planning give students the opportunity to change and improve their attitudes and behaviour and to put these into practice in a supportive environment.

Bullying can be a complicated problem, which takes time and patience to resolve properly. Using this approach, we are committed to the safety and well being of everyone.

If students choose to continue bullying and not change their attitudes and inappropriate behaviour, we will put consequences in place.

These could include:

- Time out
- Take Home
- Internal suspension
- Suspension
- Exclusion

It is important to note that these steps may vary according to individual situations. Our school does not use a 'One size fits all approach.'

These procedures have been ratified and endorsed by the Gawler East Primary School Governing Council, Staff and Students. March 2012.

Gawler East Primary School

ANTI- BULLYING



POLICY

Our Vision

To develop a community of independent learners who are able to contribute as active members of society.

Our Mission

To provide a safe and positive learning environment that engages, challenges and empowers students to achieve their personal best.

Our school's vision and mission statements challenge us to create a positive learning community in which everyone feels valued and respected.

We do not tolerate bullying or harassment in any form.

BULLYING IS:

A deliberate and unjustifiable behaviour;

Intended to cause fear, distress and/or harm to another;

Physical, verbal or indirect/relational;

Conducted by a more powerful individual or group;

SOME EXAMPLES OF BULLYING

Physical : someone using physical size/ strength to intimidate/ hurt another person, can involve hitting, tripping, pushing, throwing objects etc.

Verbal: on going name calling and teasing, mimicing, spreading rumours, threats and intimidation.

Ethnicity: when someone's race is used against them.

Emotional: Using status in a group, excluding, ridiculing, humiliating in an ongoing way.

Non verbal: threatening and obscene gestures , inappropriate body language, taking/ hiding others' belongings & cyber bullying.

WHAT CAN I DO?

If it happens to me:

Tell the person who is bullying to stop. State quite clearly that the behaviour is unwelcome and offensive.

Ignore them and walk away.

Seek help. Talk about it to someone you trust

Report it to a member of staff, a trustworthy friend or buddy. Feel confident that an incident can be solved.

Talk it over openly with your parents – they can help you make a decision.

Do NOT retaliate with physical or verbal abuse.

If you are experiencing bullying on the way to or from school, tell your parents and walk home with a friend.

Save any texts, email messages & show parents and report it to police.

If it happens to someone else:

Do NOT join in with the bully.

Tell the person to stop bullying

Be a friend to the person being bullied

Encourage the person being bullied to inform someone

Seek help. You should do something about it and help to protect others.

Talk it over with a staff member or another adult.

WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST BULLYING AT GAWLER EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL

WHAT WE DO AT GAWLER EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL TO REDUCE BULLYING

PREVENTION

Use the curriculum to teach students about respectful relationships and being a good citizen.
Develop programs to help students
Teach students about conflict resolution.
Teach about diversity & empathy.
Provide professional learning for staff in collaboration with local agencies.

INTERVENTION

Counsel students
Talk to parents / carers of the victim and the perpetrator about the situation.
Implement negotiated consequences for those who bully others.
Teach students not to be bystanders and go for assistance from any member of staff.
Ensure all staff know how to address bullying effectively respectfully and timely.
Keep written records of all reported incidents .

POST INTERVENTION

Monitor the situation to ensure student safety and well being are maintained
Talk with parents / carers about strategies to help bullied children
Review our classroom and yard procedures to ensure they are effective
Review and evaluate our behaviour code and anti bullying policy annually