



NARRE WARREN NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cyber Bullying Policy

RATIONALE

Narre Warren North Primary School is committed to child safety and establishing and maintaining child safe and child friendly environments where all children are valued and feel safe. We have zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently through our policies and procedures.

At Narre Warren North Primary School we believe that all children have the ability to learn. By providing all school environments (this includes onsite, online activities and offsite for excursions, camps, etc. and outside of school activities) that are stimulating, safe, happy and positive, we foster the learning potential of our children.

Cyber bullying involves the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behaviour by an individual or group, that is intended to harm others. Bullies deliberately set out to intimidate, exclude, threaten and/or hurt others repeatedly. Bullying is a clear form of harassment. People who use the internet, email, intranets, phones or similar technologies to bully others are cyber bullies and are breaking the law.

PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

Bullying in any form is unacceptable. Bullying that is carried out through an internet service, such as email, chat room, discussion group, instant messaging, social media or through mobile phone technologies such as short messaging service (SMS) is cyber bullying. Cyber bullying will not be tolerated at any level, and consequences exist for students who choose to bully others.

Aims:

- To reinforce within the school community what bullying is (including cyber bullying), and the fact that it is unacceptable.
- That everyone within the school community will be alert to signs and evidence of cyber bullying and have a responsibility to report it to staff whether as observer or victim.
- To ensure that all reported incidents of cyber bullying are investigated appropriately and that support is given to both victims and perpetrators.
- To seek parental and peer-group support and co-operation at all times.
- To provide those being bullied with the skills and structure to protect themselves and report any instances of bullying.

GUIDELINES FOR ACTION

Parents, teachers, students and the community will be aware of the school's position on cyber bullying. Teachers will be regularly reminded of their duty of care regarding protection of students from all forms of bullying.

The school will adopt a four-phase approach to bullying.

Primary Prevention:

- Professional development for staff relating to all forms of bullying including cyber bullying, harassment and proven counter measures.
- Educate the school community about the seriousness of cyber bullying, its impact on those being bullied and how this behaviour is unacceptable
- Community awareness and input relating to bullying (including cyber-bullying), its characteristics and the school's programs and response.
- Provide programs that promote resilience, life and social skills, assertiveness, conflict resolution and problem solving.
- Each classroom teacher will clarify with students at the start of each year the school policy on bullying, including cyber-bullying.
- Students from Grade Prep to 6 will be provided with individual/grade and confidential computer log ins and passwords. Processes are in place to ensure tracking of student activity on the school's computer equipment and network. Firewalls are installed to eliminate outside traffic into the school's network and intranet and to ensure students cannot email outside the domain.
- The use of mobile phones by students will be limited with consequences to be implemented for any students who use mobile phones inappropriately, in line with the school's mobile phone policy.
- The curriculum to include clear anti-bullying messages and strategies.
- All members of the school community to promote the philosophy of 'No Put Downs'.
- A vigilant and accountable yard duty roster for teachers will be put in place.
- Structured school developed program implemented for Grade prep to 6 in Term 1 each year. Focus on cyberbullying/safety and scaffolded to meet the needs as student usage changes.

Early Intervention:

- Encourage children and staff to report bullying incidents involving themselves or others.
- Classroom teachers and principal reminding students and staff on a regular basis to report incidents of bullying.
- Regular monitoring of traffic on google to identify potential problems.
- Parents encouraged to contact the school if they become aware of a problem.
- Public recognition and reward for positive behaviour and resolution of problems.

Intervention:

- Once identified each bully, victim and witnesses will be spoken with, and all incidents or allegations of bullying will be fully investigated and documented.
- Parents to be contacted.
- Students and staff identified by others as bullies will be informed of allegations.
- Both bullies and victims will be offered counselling and support.
- If student bullying persists, parents will be contacted and consequences implemented consistent with the school's Student Code of Conduct.

Post Violation:

- Consequences for students will be individually based and may involve:-

- exclusion from class.
 - exclusion from yard.
 - school suspension.
 - ongoing counselling from appropriate agency for both victim and bully.
- Criminal charges being laid by police.
 - Ongoing monitoring of identified bullies.
 - Rewards for positive behaviour.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the school's Student Engagement Guidelines, Child Safety Policy and Bullying Prevention Policy; and DET guidelines found at:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/prinprevent.aspx>
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/bullying.aspx>

This policy will be reviewed with whole staff, student, parent and community input as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

Reviewed: 24th June 2015

Ratified by School Council: 12th August 2015

Updated and approved by School Council: 19th July 2016