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 at school, 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 1 to 6 will be provided with individual and confidential computer log ins and passwords. Prep students will be provided with a cohort computer log in and password and are monitored during internet usage. As part of our Cyber Safety Program students are taught to keep their password secure and private. Firewalls are installed to eliminate outside traffic into the school's network and to ensure students cannot email outside the domain.
- The use of mobile phones and smart watches by students will be limited with consequences to be implemented for any students who use mobile phones and smart watches 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 Cyber Safety including 'if not nice get advice, if you do not like what you see get help immediately, ask a parent before downloading and keeping private information safe.'
- A vigilant and accountable yard duty roster for teachers will be put in place.
- Structured school developed program implemented for Grade Prep to 6 at the beginning of every term. Focus on cyberbullying/safety and scaffolded to meet the needs as student usage changes.
- Parents and students sign an internet users' agreement at the beginning of each year outlining the ways that students will be using the internet at school.

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.
- Teachers monitor internet usage in the classroom.
- Parents encouraged to contact the teacher if they become aware of a problem.
- Parents encouraged to contact the school if they become aware of an issue outside of school hours (cyberbullying).
- Teachers will record incidents on Sentral tracking patterns in behaviour.

Intervention:
- Once identified bullies, victims and witnesses will be spoken with, and all incidents or allegations of bullying will be fully investigated and documented on Sentral.
- 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.
    - exclusion from using IT/chromebooks except for testing purposes.
- Criminal charges being laid by police.
- Ongoing monitoring of identified bullies.
- Validation for change in negative 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.

Ratified by School Council: 12th August 2015

Updated and approved by School Council: 19th July 2016

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