

ANTI-BULLYING PLAN

2023

Forbes Public School

Bullying behaviour has three key features. It involves the intentional misuse of power in a relationship. It is ongoing and repeated, and it involves behaviours that can cause harm. The NSW Department of Education requires all NSW public schools to have an Anti-bullying Plan which details the strategies implemented to reduce student bullying behaviours.

Resources

The NSW anti-bullying website (see: <https://antibullying.nsw.gov.au/>) provides evidence-based resources and information for schools, parents and carers, and students. Schools are encouraged to visit the website to support whole-school prevention, early intervention and response approaches and strategies for student bullying behaviour.

Forbes Public School's commitment

Our school rejects all forms of bullying behaviours, including online (or cyber) bullying by maintaining a commitment to providing a safe, inclusive and respectful learning community that promotes student wellbeing. Executive staff are committed to establishing evidence-based approaches and strategies that promote a positive climate where bullying is less likely to occur.

1 School culture and inclusion

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

Our school engages in the following practices to promote a positive school culture.

1.1 Student assemblies

Student bullying and expectations about student behaviour will be discussed and information presented to promote a positive school culture where bullying is not accepted.

Dates	Communication topics
Month/Term	Regular reminders and explicit teaching of PBL values and the importance of the bystander
Fortnightly	Lessons of PBL values in class every second Tuesday morning

1.2 Staff communication and professional learning

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

Dates	Communication topics and Professional learning
Monthly	Teaching and reinforcing respectful relationships and key people who can help
Fortnightly	PBL meetings every second Wednesday morning
Fortnightly	Learning and Support Team meetings every second Wednesday morning
Weekly	Every Tuesday afternoon the first part of the staff meeting is dedicated to staff communication around student wellbeing and PBL.

1.3 New and casual staff

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.

Information (yellow folder) is provided in a handout to staff when they enter on duty at the school
An executive staff member speaks to new and casual staff when they enter on duty at the school
The principal speaks to new executive staff when they enter on duty at the school, as part of the induction process.

2 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. Our school proactively builds collaborative relationships with families and communities to create a shared understanding of how to support student learning, safety and wellbeing.

2.1 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 (as the person engaging in bullying behaviour, as the person being bullied or as the person witnessing the bullying behaviour).

The following are published on our school's website. Check the boxes that apply.

School Anti-bullying Plan NSW Anti-bullying website Behaviour Code for Students

2.2 Communication with parents

Our school will provide information to parents to help promote a positive school culture where bullying is not acceptable and to increase parent's understanding of how our school addresses all forms of bullying behaviour.

Dates	Communication methods and topic
	Parent meetings - Defining student bullying and school supports
	School website and newsletter

3 Support for wellbeing and positive behaviours

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

Social and emotional skills related to personal safety, resilience, help-seeking and protective behaviours are explicitly taught across the curriculum in Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE).

Examples of other ways our school will embed student wellbeing and positive behaviour approaches and strategies in practices include the following.

We have a school-wide, collective responsibility for student wellbeing, which is shared by parents and students. Planning for individualised student support is informed by sound holistic information about each student's wellbeing and learning needs in consultation with parents/carers.

We use our Wellbeing officer, school chaplain, school counsellor and school support officer to assist staff, students and families with wellbeing support. Individualised supports and programs are lead by classrooms teachers in conjunction with relevant staff and the learning support team.

Our whole school participates annually in the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence 'Bullying No Way!' initiative.

Completed by: Michelle MacGregor

Position: AP Special Education/LST coordinator

Signature: 

Date: 17/05/2023

Principal name: Megan Staples

Signature: 

Date: 12/05/2023