ABOUT ANTI-BULLYING AT CANTERBURY GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

Canterbury Girls High School is a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment in which diversity is affirmed and individual differences are respected.

Students, staff, parents and caregivers believe that in order for optimum student learning and social outcomes to be achieved, quality education must be provided in a context of strong social support and respectful relationships.

The purpose of our Anti-Bullying Plan is to develop a shared understanding amongst all members of the school community of their responsibilities to prevent and respond to bullying.

Bullying is not acceptable in any form and is uniformly opposed by the School community.

Defining Bullying Behaviour

Bullying is repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. Cyberbullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies.

Bullying can involve humiliation, domination, intimidation, victimization and all forms of harassment including that based on sex, race, disability, homosexuality or transgender. Bullying of any form or for any reason can have long-term effects on those involved including bystanders.

Bullying behaviour can be:

- **verbal** e.g. name calling, teasing, abuse, putdowns, sarcasm, insults, threats
- **physical** e.g. hitting, punching, kicking, scratching, tripping, spitting
- **social** e.g. ignoring, excluding, ostracizing, alienating, making inappropriate gestures
- **psychological** e.g. spreading rumours, dirty looks, taking or damaging possessions, malicious SMS, internet and email messages, inappropriate use of camera phones and other electronic devices.

Responsibilities

Students, teachers, parents, caregivers and members of the wider school community have a shared responsibility for creating a safe and happy environment, free from all forms of bullying:

- **students** are responsible for following the school’s behaviour code and for reporting incidents of bullying to a teacher as soon as possible to enable the bullying to be addressed
- **parents, caregivers & community members** are responsible for supporting the school’s code of behaviour and for contacting the school should they become aware of any instance of bullying involving their daughter or any other student
- **teachers** are responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating effective anti-bullying strategies and for ensuring NSW Department of Education and Communities requirements in relation to the issue of bullying are addressed.
The School community recognises that the modeling and promotion of respectful relationships by all members on a continuing basis is fundamental to the prevention and eradication of bullying.

**Managing Bullying**

**Identifying bullying behaviours**

- **students** will participate in year meetings and a variety of student well being activities in which they examine the definition of bullying, the various ways bullying can be displayed and strategies for addressing it
- **teachers** will participate in a workshop relating to the Anti-Bullying Plan and the issue of bullying generally so as to increase their capacity to manage the issue effectively
- **parents and caregivers** will receive information about bullying and procedures annually for addressing it in the school newsletter and on the school website.

**Strategies**

- understand what bullying is and name it if it occurs
- intervene if bullying occurs
- be proactive in reporting immediately any incident of bullying to the relevant Year Adviser
- support students who are the targets of bullying and encourage them to see their Year Adviser, or see the Year Adviser on their behalf if they are not comfortable reporting it
- demonstrate courtesy and respect in all dealings with people in order to model positive ways of relating with people
- actively participate in curriculum and whole school initiatives which examine the issue of bullying and strategies for addressing it.

**Procedures**

- **Identify** bullying and understand that it is not acceptable under any circumstances.
- **Report** the bullying to the student’s Year Adviser.
- **Complete** a Bullying Report Form issued by the Year Adviser in which information is provided about the bullying that has been occurring.

Once a report has been made, the students involved in the bullying will:

- **Participate** in a mediation conducted by the Deputy Principal in order to put an end to the bullying.
- **Commit** to an Anti-bullying Agreement in which all parties commit to cease all forms of bullying.
- **Notify** the Deputy Principal immediately should there be any re-occurrence of the bullying so that additional measures can be implemented.
- **Understand** that persistent bullying will result in suspension from school.

**Cyberbullying**

All students need to understand that cyberbullying is illegal.

Students who experience cyberbullying must:

- refrain from responding to the cyber bullying in any way
- immediately block the contact or, if in a chat room, change your user name and password
- report any threats made to the police immediately
• save and print bullying that occurs over the internet (If the bullying occurs over a mobile, save text messages or keep a record of the date, time and what was said in phone conversations)
• report to your Year Adviser if the cyber bullying occurs at school or involves students from school, and ensure any relevant ‘report abuse’ services (eg. Facebook service) or service providers (eg mobile phone company) are informed.

Monitoring and Evaluating

The School’s Anti-Bullying Plan will be reviewed in Term 4 of each year to evaluate the Plan’s effectiveness and make revisions where necessary for the following school year. School data relating to bullying, including the number of bullying reports and anti-bullying agreements undertaken over the course of the school year, will be analysed during the review process.

Related Websites for Additional Information


Bullying No Way website ~ www.bullyingnoway.com.au

Kids Helpline website ~ www.kidshelpline.com.au

Mind Matters website ~ www.mindmatters.edu.au

Cyber bullying related sites:
E smart school website ~ www.esmartschools.org.au

Cyber smart website ~ www.cybersmart.gov.au