

## What is bullying?

The NSW Department of Education defines bullying as “**repeated** verbal, physical, social or psychological behavior that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. Cyber bullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies.”

Arguments or fights between equals or single incidents are not defined as bullying.

Bullying behavior can be:

- **Verbal** such as; name calling, abuse, put-downs, sarcasm, insults or threats.
- **Physical** such as: hitting, punching, kicking, scratching, tripping or spitting.
- **Social** such as; ignoring, excluding, alienating, making inappropriate gestures.
- **Emotional** such as spreading rumours intentionally, menace, dirty looks, hiding or damaging possessions.
- **Cyber** such as: malicious SMS and email messages, inappropriate use of camera phones.

## Prevention

All students in Years 1-6 at Cambridge Gardens Public School will take part in an Anti-Bullying unit in the first two weeks of term 1 each year. This will be a series of lessons that teach about bullying as well as the school based procedures for dealing with it. Our Kindergarten students will take part in this program later in term 1.

The acronym **STAND** is also taught to all students to assist students to remember strategies.

There are three main ways that the school identifies students at risk of or who are currently being bullied.:

- Monitoring student welfare data.
- Learning Support team which includes our School Counsellor monitor data and classroom referrals.
- School Executive team monitor teacher and parent referrals concerning bullying.

All members of the Cambridge Gardens Public School community have the right to learn and work in a safe and happy environment free from the fear of bullying, harassment and intimidation.

As a school community we have a shared responsibility to create and maintain a positive and respectful environment. Bullying must be taken seriously and is not acceptable in any form.

# Cambridge Gardens Public School



**Take a STAND against Bullying**



## BULLYING IS NOT ACCEPTED AT CAMBRIDGE GARDENS

Cambridge Gardens students, staff and parents will not tolerate bullying or harassment of any kind. We are totally opposed to all forms of bullying.

I will make a real effort to be kind to everyone.

I will speak politely to others

I will keep my hands and feet to myself.

I will play fairly in my games.

I will share equipment and playground space with others.

I will take responsibility for my own actions .

I will not ignore bullying. I will report bullying to an adult to help stop it.

I will not bully other students at Cambridge Gardens Public School or on the way to or from school.

**I am a SAFE, RESPECTFUL, PROUD LEARNER!**

Student's Name:.....

Class: .....

Student's signature:.....

Parent's signature: .....

Date: .....

### Response

Our school will provide clear information on strategies that promote appropriate behaviour and outline the consequences of inappropriate behaviour regularly. The school will make use of its newsletter, school assemblies, website, P & C meetings and classrooms to communicate this.

An anti-bullying brochure will be given to all students each year that details our school procedures.

Incidents can be reported in the following ways:



- \* Students tell the teacher on duty
- \* Students tell their classroom teacher
- \* Students tell the Assistant Principal or Principal
- \* Students tell their parents who inform the school
- \* Students complete a notification sheet or write a note and post it in the Principal's Letterbox

These methods of reporting can be used by the victim or a bystander.

When a report of bullying occurs the school will:

- \* Investigate the issue interviewing all parties involved.
- \* Provide support for the victim.
- \* Implement appropriate consequences according to the school Discipline Policy.
- \* Inform parents of actions taken and planned.
- \* Ongoing monitoring of student involved.

### Students

Our students need to respond appropriately to bullying. All victims of bullying behaviour need to take a stand.

#### Stay calm and confident

#### Try to ignore

#### Ask them to stop

#### Never fight

#### Duty teacher

#### Parents

If your child is being bullied:

- Stay calm and get accurate details.
- Listen carefully to your child and assure them that it is not their fault .
- Give your child some strategies to cope. Practise these strategies at home.
- If the problem persists inform the class teacher.
- Parents should discourage retaliation, and should not approach other parents. If the problem continues seek support from the stage supervisor or the principal.

