Bullying Prevention Policy

Rationale

Currambine Primary School aims to provide a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment for all members of our school community.

The prevention of bullying is a responsibility that rests with all members of the school community to ensure all are treated with respect, care and dignity.

Key understandings about Bullying Behaviour

Bullying, which is a repetitive pattern of behaviour with the intention to threaten or cause harm, takes many forms and may include:

1. Verbal Bullying – the repeated use of words to hurt or humiliate others. Verbal bullying includes put downs, insulting language, name calling, swearing, homophobic, racist or sexist comments. This type of bullying can also include nonverbal communication.

2. Relational Bullying – usually involves repeatedly ostracising others by leaving them out or convincing others to exclude or reject other individuals or groups from their social connections. This type of bullying can include spreading rumours, sharing personal information.

3. Physical Bullying - includes low level physical contact (prodding, poking) through to severe physical assaults or damage to personal property.

4. Cyber Bullying – involves the use of information technology such as texting, email, websites or social networking sites to engage in verbal or relational bullying.

5. Bystanders – are individuals who witness or know about the bullying behaviour. All bystanders have a responsibility to discourage bully behaviour, support students who have been bullied and report bullying to an adult in the school.

Guidelines

- All students will participate in classroom based programmes aimed at enhancing their self-management and interpersonal skills including specific units on bullying (Yr 2-4) and cyber bullying (Yr 5-6).

- Students identified as engaging on bullying behaviour will be counselled by the classroom teacher or a member of the School Executive – giving the student an opportunity to problem solve, resolve differences with other students and adjust their behaviour.

- If bullying behaviour persists social problem solving processes such as the use of shared concern/restorative justice practices will be initiated. This process will involve a member of the School Executive working with the group of students involved to engage the bystanders and implement specific strategies. Parental contact would occur if a shared concern process was initiated.

- Further incidents of bullying will result in a response consistent with Student Care and Support Policy and the application of appropriate sanctions. Parental contact will occur if sanctions are applied. All such incidences will be recorded in the SIS Behaviour Module.

- Incidences of cyber-bullying generally occur outside the school environment but impact on student interactions inside the school. The school will intervene in such matters through individual counselling, shared concern practises, sanctions and parental contact as appropriate.