ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Ceduna Area School is committed to providing a safe and caring environment which fosters respect for others and does not tolerate bullying. The policy provides a code of conduct to ensure students are free from bullying and intimidation. We believe students have a right to be safe and happy at school. The anti-bullying policy deals with bullying promptly and effectively by involving mediation, disciplinary action, warnings, social skills programs, counselling and parental involvement.

Harassment is a form of bullying and so is included in this policy.

OUR UNDERSTANDING OF BULLYING

'Bullying is recognised globally as a complex and serious problem. It is a form of aggression, involving the abuse of power in relationships. It has many faces, including the use of emerging technologies, and varies by age, gender and culture.'
 (eSmart Starter Kit)

Bullying can take many forms. We consider the following behaviours to be bullying:

Physical:
* Hitting, kicking, punching, pushing, shoving, spitting, tripping

Psychological:
* Threatening either verbally or physically
* Stalking or following
* Making rude gestures
* Taking or damaging something which belongs to someone else
* Forcing others to hand over food, money or something which belongs to them
* Making someone do something they don't want to do

Verbal: (including the use of technology, Facebook, MSN, Mobile Phones, etc.)
* Name calling
* Teasing
* Threatening
* Making fun of someone because of their appearance, physical characteristics or cultural background
* Making fun of someone's actions
* Annoying others over and over again

Social and Emotional: (including the use of technology, Facebook, MSN, Mobile Phones, etc.)
* Excluding others from the game or group
* Spreading untrue stories about others
* Following people around
* Writing or posting incorrect or unwanted information about others
* Unwanted texting, photographing or videoing of others (mobiles).

Sexual or Racial harassment may include:
* assault (ranging from unwanted touching to violent and verbal incidents)
* persistent and unwelcome invitations for sexual favours or for social comment
* smutty jokes, innuendo and suggestive comments, leering and ogling, belittling jokes/comments/put downs

- displays of sexually graphic materials
- suggestive comments about a person's private life or sexual preference
- remarks about a person's physiology, cultural or family background

Cyberbullying – viewed as most of the above delivered through means of technology, eg computers, mobile phones.

- Technology may be considered and <u>not limited to</u> chat rooms, instant chat messaging, social media such as Facebook and Twitter, email, text messages or using other web sites.

The consequences and the way we address cyberbullying is the same as any form of bullying but as there is specific legislation around cyberbullying, the police may be involved.

STRATEGIES WE WILL USE TO DEAL WITH BULLYING

At Ceduna Area School we will:
- Openly talk about bullying – what it is , how it affects us and what we can do about it
- Explicitly teach about the social and emotional consequences that devolve from all forms of Bullying. Including the various roles in bullying scenarios (bully, victim, bystanders), why people bully, how to support someone being bullied and the process of reporting bullying behaviour.
- Teach our children the skills which will build their self-esteem and empower them to take responsibility for themselves – and give them opportunities to practise these skills.

Responsibilities of Staff:
- To model appropriate behaviours at all times
- Pass on bullying information to class teachers
- To deal with all reported and observed incidences of bullying as set out in the policy
- To ensure that children are supervised at all times
- To report incidences of bullying to the cohort manager, year level coordinators, if it is warranted.
- To teach students grievance procedures and how to use them.
- Raising awareness among students as to the inappropriateness of bullying

Responsibilities of Students:
- To 'tell' if they are being bullied or if they see someone else being bullied – both at school and on the way to and from school
- To help someone who is being bullied
- To not bully others
- To speak assertively to the bully
- To use conflict resolution skills and appropriate grievance procedures.

Responsibilities of the Parents/Caregivers:
- To model appropriate behaviours to deal appropriately with bullies
- To watch for signs that their child may be being bullied
- To speak with someone on the staff if their child is being bullied, or they suspect that this is happening
- To instruct their children to 'tell' if they are bullied
- To discuss with children, appropriate strategies that could be used to deal with bullies, in-line with school policies.

REPORTING OF BULLYING

Incidences of bullying can be reported to any teacher, the counsellor, member of the management team by children and their parents/caregivers. Any bullying incidences that are dealt with will be recorded.