

Anti Bullying Policy

Como Public School is committed to providing a safe and caring environment, which fosters respect for others and does not tolerate bullying.

Como Public School is committed to providing a safe environment to our students both online and offline. We aim to create a generation of good cybercitizens, controlling the technology instead of being controlled by it.

Our Definition of Bullying

Bullying is defined as repeatedly hurting another person who is less powerful – either physically or psychologically.

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

Physical:

- Hitting, kicking, punching
- Pushing, shoving, spitting
- 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

Verbal:

- Name calling
- Teasing
- Threatening
- Making fun of someone because of their appearance, physical characteristics or cultural background
- Making fun of someone's actions

Indirect:

- Excluding others from the game or group
- Spreading untrue stories about others

Our Definition of Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is when a child, preteen or teen is tormented, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another child, preteen or teen using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones.

Strategies We Will Use To Deal With Bullying

At Como Public School we will:

- Openly talk about bullying – what it is, how it affects us and what we can do about it.
- Teach our children the skills which will build their self-esteem and empower them to take responsibility for themselves – and give them the opportunity to practise these skills
- Formulate a policy which clearly states what actions we will take to deal with bullying behaviour

Strategies We Will Use To Deal With Cyberbullying

At Como Public School we will:

- Educate the students about consequences to cyberbullying, ie suspension or loss of privilege of using the internet.
- Develop an awareness of the negative impact that this form of bullying can have on a child.
- Teach students to respect others, take a stand against bullying and report incidences.

The responsibilities of staff and students, reporting and responding to repeated incidences remain the same for cyberbullying as is outlined in the Como Public School's Antibullying Policy.

References:

<http://www.stopcyberbullying.org>

Responsibilities of Staff

- respect and support students
- model and promote appropriate behaviour
- have knowledge of school and departmental policies relating to bullying behaviour
- respond in a timely manner to incidents of bullying according to the school's Anti-bullying Plan
- provide curriculum and pedagogy that supports students to develop an understanding of bullying and its impact on individuals and the broader community.

Responsibilities of Students

- behave appropriately, respecting individual differences and diversity
- behave as responsible digital citizens
- follow the school Anti-bullying Plan
- behave as responsible bystanders
- report incidents of bullying according to their school Anti-bullying Plan.

Responsibilities of Parents and Caregivers

- support their children to become responsible citizens and to develop responsible on-line behaviour
- be aware of the school Anti-bullying Plan and assist their children in understanding bullying behaviour
- support their children in developing positive responses to incidents of bullying consistent with the school Anti-bullying Plan
- report incidents of school related bullying behaviour to the school
- work collaboratively with the school to resolve incidents of bullying when they occur.

Reporting of Bullying

The children and their parents can report incidences of bullying to any teacher or the principal. Any bullying incidences that are dealt with will be recorded and this record will be kept to evaluate the program.

Responding to Reported Incidences of Bullying

When a bullying incident is reported or observed, we will use the following graded sanctions:

1. Talk to the children involved about the incident and remind them that such behaviour is not acceptable. Comfort the victim and point out how he/she feels
2. Warn the bully of the consequences of further incidences – eg: isolation from the playground.
3. Inform other staff of the incident and record it. Monitor the behaviour of the children involved following the discussion. Use positive reinforcement to praise the bully for doing something right.
4. If the aggression is repeated, separate the offending child from the group for time out.
5. If the child continues to bully, make an appointment to speak to the parent/caregiver. Remind them of the policy and ask for their cooperation in stopping the child from bullying other children.
6. If none of the sanctions succeed in stopping the child from being aggressive, he/she may be excluded – either from the playground or from school for a short period of time.
7. For major offences refer to the discipline policy.

The staff will be responsible for implementing the program and ensuring that incidences of bullying are dealt with in a manner consistent with the policy and as soon as possible after it is reported or observed.

Support Materials are:

- [Bullying: Preventing and Responding to Student Bullying in Schools Brochure](#)
- [Cyberbullying: Information for staff in schools](#)
- [Anti-bullying Resources](#)
- [Bullying Interventions: Information for School Executive, Learning Support Teams or Student Welfare Teams](#)
- [Bias Based Bullying.](#)