

- Encouraging a climate of cooperation and mutual respect through its leadership, teaching practices and modelling of desired behaviours.
- Incorporating students' needs and views into daily classroom activities as appropriate (providing opportunities for every student to experience success).
- Ensuring all students are inducted into our school's expectations/requirements and values.
- Developing programs to help students participate and have a say in their learning.
- Teaching students about conflict resolution, anger management, resilience and problem solving and developing policies which promote student safety.
- Teaching for and about diversity.
- Providing professional learning for staff in collaboration with local agencies.
- Ensuring the consistent and fair application of school rules.
- Increasing lunchtime options available to students.

Intervention strategies include

- Counselling students who have been bullied.
- Talking with parents or caregivers about the situation.
- Putting consequences in place for those who bully others.
- Teaching students to be better bystanders.
- Ensuring that all staff know how to address bullying effectively and respectfully.
- Monitoring students through fortnightly Student Services Meetings and analysis of bullying survey results.

Post-intervention strategies include

- Monitoring the situation between the students to ensure that their safety and wellbeing is maintained.
- Talking with parents and caregivers about strategies.
- Reviewing our yard procedures to make sure they are effective.
- Dealing with hotspots in the yard.
- Reviewing and evaluating behaviour codes and practices.

As staff you can

- Adopt positive classroom management strategies and incorporate anti-bullying messages in the curriculum.
- Provide positive role models for the children
- Actively counteract bullying behaviour.
- Respond appropriately (according to school procedures) to any reported incidents of bullying.
- Be obviously present during recess and lunchtimes when you are on duty, as a deterrent to possible incidents of bullying.

The important role of parents - As parents you can

- Be aware of the signs of distress in your child, eg unwillingness to attend school, a pattern of illness, missing equipment, requests for extra money, damaged clothing or equipment.
- Take an active interest in your child's social life and acquaintances.
- Assist your child to discuss any incidence of bullying with a teacher. If possible, allow your child to report and deal with the situation. Your child can gain respect and confidence through taking the initiative and dealing with the problem without direct parental involvement.
- If your child is being bullied, discourage any planned retaliation, either physical or verbal, by discussing positive strategies they can use.
- Be positive about your child's qualities and encourage your child to be tolerant and caring.
- Be willing to attend interviews if your child is involved in an incident of bullying, and work cooperatively with the school.
- Be willing to inform the school of any suspected bullying even if your child is not directly involved or affected.
- Do not deal directly with the other children or their parents but work through and with the school.
- Discussing the school's expectations about behaviour and how best to deal with bullying.
- Talk to your child's teacher or the leadership team about methods and strategies to help you manage your concern.
- Call the Parenting Help Line.
- Contact the school

Useful websites and contact numbers

Parent Help Line – Child & Youth Health - 1300 364 100
Information and support on health, behaviour, development and parenting for parent and carers of 0-25 year olds.

Lifeline - 13 11 14
Counselling for people with any type of crisis.

National Safe Schools Framework - http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school_education/publications_resources/profiles/national_safe_schools_framework.htm

Racism. No Way! - <http://www.racismnoway.com.au>

Gender Equity: A Framework for Australia
www.det.act.gov.au/publicat/pdf/GenderFramwk145-151.pdf



Policy to Promote a Safe and Supportive School Environment

Ocean View College is committed to providing a safe, healthy learning environment. Within this context, bullying is a completely unacceptable behaviour. Through the analysis of student, staff and parent/caregiver surveys, together with community information/consultation sessions and using the National Safe Schools Framework as an important reference, Ocean View College has developed a whole school approach to responding to bullying within an holistic approach to students well being. By having students, staff and parents/caregivers working in partnership, we do our utmost to ensure that Ocean View College is a safe place where everyone is treated with respect and dignity.

Our definition of bullying

The whole school community has developed the following definitions:

Preschool/Junior School – “Bullying is when somebody keeps on treating you unfairly in a way that makes you feel sad, uncomfortable or unsafe.”

Middle/Senior School – “Bullying is when someone deliberately and repeatedly uses power to hurt you and your feelings.”

Types of Bullying

Direct

Hitting, slapping, punching, kicking, pushing, strangling, spitting, biting, punching, scratching, throwing things eg stones

Indirect

Getting another person to harm someone

Non-Physical

Mean and hurtful name-calling, hurtful teasing, demanding money or possessions, forcing others to commit offences such as stealing

Spreading

nasty rumours, trying to get others to not like someone

Non-Verbal

Threatening and/or obscene gestures

Deliberate

exclusion from a group or activity, removing and hiding and/or damaging others belongings

Virtual

Instant messages, text messages, school and personal emails

Websites, message boards

Bullying isn't

- Fighting between two students of equal power
- Teasing done in a mutual way meant in fun and jest

bystanders



Rights and Responsibilities

At Ocean View College everyone has the right to feel safe and valued. Every member of the school community has a responsibility to ensure that this happens.

Rights

To feel safe
To learn
To be respected
To be valued

Responsibilities

To respect yourself
To respect others
To use common sense
To support others

As students you can

- Tell the person doing the bullying to stop. State quite clearly that the behaviour is unwelcome and offensive.
- Ignore them.
- Walk away.
- Seek help - talk about it to someone you trust. You could speak to our Peer Mediators.
- Report it to a member of the school staff or someone on your safety network. Tell them where the bullying happened, how often it has happened and what you have done to stop it. Always report the bullying as soon as it happens. Do not ignore it. When bullying is ignored it may get worse. Feel confident that any incident can be resolved.
- If you are experiencing bullying on the way home from school, report it to someone on your network. Walk home with friends and report it to the school or police.
- Respect yourself and others.
- Show that you and your friends disapprove of bullying
- **Remember – everyone has the right to feel safe and happy. NOTHING is so AWFUL that you can't tell someone about it.**

Bystander Actions – if you see someone being bullied you can –

- Tell the person bullying to stop, let them know what they are doing is bullying
- Be a friend to the person being bullied
- Encourage the person to tell someone they trust.
- Seek help.

Refuse to join in with their bullying and walk away.

Support his/her friends and protect them from bullying by being there for them.

What will Ocean View College do about Incidents of Bullying?

We will listen and talk to the person who has been bullied and the person who has bullied others.

We will use a process such as the “method of shared concern” to help everyone involved improve their relationships with each other. **Restorative justice** is used to help us focus on the person harmed, the person who is doing the harm and the affected community. The emphasis is on healing the harm, particularly to relationships, that is caused by the bullying behaviour. We collectively identify and address the harm, needs and obligations resulting from the bullying. We attempt to create healing and put things right again. Briefly, this approach consists of –

- Individual meetings are held, with each of the students involved in the bullying situation; eg the student or students bullying, the person being bullied and any **bystanders** who may have seen what happened. Each student is asked about the problem and to suggest ways in which he/she personally could help to improve the situation.
- Follow up meetings, discussions and planning give students the opportunity to change and improve their attitude, understanding and behaviour and to put these into practice in a supportive environment.

Bullying can be a complicated problem which takes time and patience to resolve properly. Using this approach, we are committed to the safety and well being of all students.

At Ocean View College we do not use a “one size fits all” approach. This is because each person is different and each incident of bullying is different.

What does Ocean View College do to reduce bullying?

If an incident of bullying happens at Ocean View College we use prevention, intervention and post-intervention strategies.

Prevention strategies include

- Using the curriculum to teach students about respectful relationships, civics and citizenship.