

Dealing with bullying

We use the 'Shared Concern Approach' to deal with incidents of serious bullying in line with the School Behaviour Management policy. Research has shown that this approach is very effective in changing student behaviour when compared to one where the focus is on punishment or blame that often results in bullying becoming more covert. Briefly the Shared Concern approach consists of the following:

- Individual meetings are held with each of the students involved in the bullying situation, e.g. the student or students bullying. The person being bullied and any bystanders who may have seen what was happening.
- Each student is asked about the problem and to suggest ways in which he or she personally could help to improve the situation.
- The person being bullied is also given the opportunity to discuss what happened and encouraged to think of ways to improve the situation.
- Follow-up meetings, discussion and planning give students the opportunity to change and improve their attitudes and behaviour and 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.
- If students choose to continue bullying and not change their attitudes and behaviour consequences in line with our school's behaviour management policy will be put in place.

These could include:

- Time out
- Take home
- Internal suspension
- Suspension

It is important to note that these steps may vary according to individual situations.

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Banksia Park School R-7 supports positive student interactions through:

- Friendly Schools & Families Program
- Program Achieve
- Sports equipment for recess & lunch play-times
- Peer mediation
- Assembly & class awards
- Excursions
- Buddy classes
- Early Bird Reading
- SRC
- Special lunches
- SAPSASA
- Special play
- Before school & lunchtime library access
- School Choir
- Active After School program

Helpful contacts

Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800 (Free call)

Youth Health Line 1300 131 719

Children, Youth & Women's Health 1300 364 100 or www.cyh.com

Anglicare SA 8305 9200

Parent Help Line 1300 364 100

Banksia Park School R-7

Cottenham Road

Banksia Park

S.A. 5091

Telephone (08) 8264 2114

Fax (08) 8264 5384

Website: www.banksiar7.sa.edu.au

Email: info@banksiar7.sa.edu.au

Principal: Peter Maas

Banksia Park School R-7



Anti - Bullying Policy



At Banksia Park Primary we believe that everyone has the right to be safe. This policy explains bullying and how our school will work towards establishing a community in which everyone is valued, respected and safe.

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What is bullying?

Banksia Park School R-7 does not tolerate bullying or harassment. We believe that every member of our school community has a responsibility to ensure that everyone is safe.

Bullying is repeated, unfair, hurtful behaviour.

It is intended to cause someone to feel less powerful, afraid or unsafe.

Bullying is an abuse of power.

Bullying includes:

- Hurtful teasing
- Threats, harassment & intimidation
- Spreading rumours
- Hitting, punching, pushing, tripping
- Deliberately excluding
- Ridiculing, humiliating in an ongoing way
- Rude gestures, inappropriate facial expressions, deliberate staring
- Using emails / text messages / phone calls etc to cause harm
- Bystanders who either encourage or do not intervene by reporting it to an adult



Responding to & preventing bullying

Everyone in our school community has an important role to play in preventing and responding to reports and observations of bullying.

Staff

- Our formal curriculum, using Program Achieve and the Friendly Schools & Families Program, promotes cooperation and pro-social behaviour.
- Staff undertake professional development in addressing bullying effectively and respectfully
- All staff follow the school's Behaviour Management policy when working towards preventing or responding to bullying.
- Staff support the Peer Mediation program

Students

If it happens to you:

- Tell the student who is bullying to stop. State quite clearly that the behaviour is unwelcome and offensive.
- Ignore them and walk away.
- Seek help. Talk about it to someone you trust.
- Report it to a member of staff or trustworthy friend. Feel confident that an incident can be solved.
- Talk it over with your parents - they can help you make a decision.
- Do not retaliate with physical or verbal abuse.
- If you are experiencing bullying on the way to or from school, tell your parents and walk home with a friend.

About Bystanders:

We believe there are no innocent bystanders. In many instances a bully may receive positive attention from peers. We aim to reduce this inherent reward by encouraging students to:

- Be part of the solution not part of the problem.
- Not join in or encourage the bullying.
- Stay safe
- Seek help. Get a teacher or someone you can trust immediately.
- Encourage the person being bullied to talk it over with a staff member or another adult.

Family members

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 equipment or clothing.
- Take an active interest in your child's social life and acquaintances.
- Assist your child to discuss any incidences 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.
- With bullying incidences at school do not deal directly with the other children or their parents but work through and with the school.
- Discuss the school's expectations about behaviour and how best to deal with bullying.