

# Cyber Bullying

## Lyndale Greens Primary School POLICY

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of the cyber bullying policy is to:

- 1.1 Ensure that the school community understands what constitutes cyber bullying
- 1.2 Reinforce with the school community that cyber bullying is unacceptable.

### 2. Guidelines

- 2.1 Cyber bullying is the use of internet, email, intranets, phones or similar technologies to bully others
- 2.2 The cyber bullying policy should be read in conjunction with the school anti-bullying policy.
- 2.3 Consequences exist for students who choose to bully others.
- 2.4 Everyone within the school community needs to be alert to signs and evidence of cyber bullying and has a responsibility to report it to staff whether as observer or victim.
- 2.5 All reported incidents of cyber bullying will be investigated appropriately.
- 2.6 Parental and peer group support and cooperation will be sought at all times.

### 3. Implementation

- 3.1 The whole school community will be made aware of the school's position on cyber bullying.
- 3.2 Teachers will be regularly reminded of their duty of care regarding all forms of bullying.
- 3.3 The school will adopt a four-phase approach to bullying.
- 3.4 Primary Prevention:
  - 3.4.1 Professional development for staff relating to all forms of bullying including cyber bullying, harassment and proven counter measures.
  - 3.4.2 The school community educated about the seriousness of cyber bullying, its impact on those being bullied and how this behaviour is unacceptable
  - 3.4.3 Community awareness and input relating to cyber bullying, its characteristics and the school's programs and response.
  - 3.4.4 Programs that promote resilience, life and social skills, assertiveness and conflict resolution.
  - 3.4.5 Each classroom teacher to clarify with students at the start of each year the school policy on bullying, including cyber bullying.
  - 3.4.7 Students provided with confidential computer/network log ins and passwords.
  - 3.4.8 Mobile phones not to be turned on at school unless with special permission.
  - 3.4.9 Curriculum to include anti-bullying messages and strategies.
  - 3.4.10 Staff and students to promote the philosophy of "No Put Downs".
- 3.5 Early Intervention:
  - 3.5.1 Encourage children and staff to report bullying incidents involving themselves or others.
  - 3.5.2 Regular reminders to students and staff to report incidents of bullying.
  - 3.5.3 Regular monitoring of student traffic on school's computer networks.
  - 3.5.4 Parents encourage to contact the school if they become aware of problems.
  - 3.5.5 Public recognition and reward for positive behaviour and resolution of problems.
- 3.6 Intervention:
  - 3.6.1 Each bully, victim and witness will be spoken with, and all incidents or allegations of bullying will be fully investigated and documented.

- 3.6.2 Parents will be contacted.
- 3.6.3 Students and staff identified by others as bullies will be informed of allegations.
- 3.6.4 Both bullies and victims will be offered counselling and support.
- 3.6.5 Removal of cyber-bullies from access to the school's network and computers.
- 3.6.6 If bullying persists parents will be contacted and consequences implemented consistent with the school's Behaviour Management and Internet Protocol.

3.7 Post Evaluation:

- 3.7.1 Consequences will be individually based and may include exclusion from class or the yard, school suspension, withdrawal of privileges, ongoing counselling.
- 3.7.2 Reinforcement of positive behaviours.
- 3.7.3 Support Structures and rewards for positive behaviours.
- 3.7.4 Ongoing monitoring of identified bullies.

**4 Evaluation**

- 4.1 This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's 3 year cyclic review process

**Ratified at School Council 27<sup>th</sup> October 2010**