



ROCKDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL

ANTI BULLYING POLICY

Policy Statement

Bullying must be taken seriously and is not acceptable in any form at Rockdale Public School. Students have the right to expect that they will spend the school day free from the fear of bullying, harassment and intimidation.

Bullying de-values, isolates, frightens and affects an individual's ability to achieve. It has long term effects on those engaging in bullying behaviour, those who are the subjects of bullying behaviour and those around them. Teachers, students, parents, caregivers and members of our school community have the responsibility to work together to address bullying.

Definition of Bullying Behaviour

- Bullying can be defined as intentional, repeated behaviour by an individual or group of individuals that causes distress, hurt or undue pressure
- Bullying involves the abuse of power in relationships
- Bullying can involve all forms of harassment, humiliation, domination and intimidation of others
- Bullying behaviour can be:
 - Verbal e.g. name calling, teasing, abuse, put-downs, sarcasm, insults, threats
 - Physical e.g. hitting, punching, kicking, scratching, tripping, spitting
 - Social e.g. ignoring, excluding, ostracizing, alienating, making inappropriate gestures
 - Psychological e.g. spreading rumours, dirty looks, hiding or damaging possessions,
 - Malicious e.g. SMS and email messages, inappropriate use of camera phones

Statement of Purpose

At Rockdale Public School students participate in quality education that will help them become independent lifelong learners who can create a positive future for themselves. Any inappropriate behaviour that interferes with the teaching, learning and well being of Rockdale Public School students is unacceptable. All the members of the school community have a shared responsibility to create a safe and happy environment, free from all forms of bullying.

Responsibilities of Members of the Rockdale School Community

All members of the Rockdale School community have a responsibility to promote positive relationships that respect and accept individual differences and diversity and actively work together to resolve incidents of bullying behaviour when they occur.

Students can expect to:

- know that their concerns will be responded to by staff
- be provided with appropriate support
- take part in learning experiences that address key understandings and skills relating to bullying and harassment guided by the PDHPE syllabus

Students have a responsibility to:

- behave appropriately, respecting individual differences and diversity
- follow Rockdale Public School's anti bullying policy
- respond to incidents of bullying according to the Rockdale School anti bullying policy

Parents and caregivers have a responsibility to:

- be aware of the school's anti bullying policy and assist their children in understanding bullying behaviour
- support their children in developing positive responses to incidents of bullying consistent with the Rockdale School anti bullying policy

Rockdale Public School has the responsibility to:

- provide students with strategies to respond positively to incidents of bullying behaviour
- provide parents, caregivers and students with clear information on strategies that promote appropriate behaviour and consequences of inappropriate behaviour
- follow up complaints of bullying, harassment and intimidation

Teachers at Rockdale Public School have a responsibility to:

- model appropriate behaviour
- respond in an appropriate and timely manner to incidents of bullying according to the Rockdale Public School anti bullying policy
- respect and support students in all aspects of their learning

Whole School Strategies

- All dealings with students should be linked to the School Student Welfare Discipline Code
- Use of Restorative Practice to develop relationships and resolve bullying incidents
- Buddy program K-6 – older children can offer support to younger children
- Leadership training every year for all Year 5 students
- There is a strong SRC operating with meetings held regularly. All school issues are discussed
- Social Skills lessons/activities in classes when necessary. May involve School Counsellor
- All classes are involved in Anti Bullying lessons/program each year
- Class rules are negotiated annually with teachers/students based on the Student Welfare Policy
- Updates in Professional Learning will be undertaken by all staff members regularly through in-services on Anti Bullying and Student Welfare issues
- Employ a consistent whole school strategy for self-empowerment of students.

Procedures for Dealing with Bullying Behaviour

- All students will be listened to
- Class teacher and student deal with smaller issues in the classroom in line with school/class rules
- Teacher on duty deals with smaller issues in the playground
- Parents and class teacher work with students to look at underlying problems and seek solutions
- Principal and Executive staff work with parents and individuals to identify bullying behaviours where necessary
- Principal /Executive staff members work with individuals or groups on strategies to solve specific bullying behaviours
- School Counsellor and Learning Support Team and DET involved in individual programs if required

- Serious bullying incidents are recorded in the Detention Book and consequences are in line with the School Wellbeing Policy.
- Issues are resolved in a calm manner with as much time as necessary given to hearing what each student feels and assisting all students to feel more able to cope
- Students with identified bullying behaviour will be encouraged to take responsibility for their actions

Procedures for Reporting Bullying

- Students are to report all incidents of bullying to a teacher immediately
- Parents/caregivers with concerns about bullying should contact the school immediately
- All bullying incidents are to be reported, taken seriously and dealt with by teachers, Executive, Principal and parents (depending on the severity)