



Anti-Bullying Policy

DEFINITION

A person is bullied when someone, or a group of people, repeatedly and deliberately upset or hurt another person or damage their property, reputation or social acceptance on more than one occasion. There is an imbalance of power in incidents of bullying with the bully or bullies having more power at the time due to age, size, status or other reasons.

RATIONALE

The Centre will provide a positive culture where bullying is not accepted, and in so doing, all will have the right of respect from others, the right to learn or to teach, and a right to feel safe and secure in the Centre environment at all times.

AIMS

- To reinforce within the Centre what bullying is, and the fact that it is unacceptable.
- To alert everyone within the Centre community of the signs and evidence of bullying and to ensure bullying is reported to staff whether a person is an observer or a victim.
- To ensure that all reported incidents of bullying are followed up appropriately.
- To seek parental and peer-group support and co-operation at all times.

IMPLEMENTATION

Bullying may consist of repeated physical harm, harassment, verbal insults or hurtful remarks, or actions designed to hurt somebody's reputation, social standing or to cause humiliation. Bullying may be carried out directly or indirectly, and may include the use of digital technologies such as social network sites, websites or on-line chat rooms.

Our Centre has adopted a zero tolerance position on bullying.

Our Centre will combat bullying by providing a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment.

We have adopted a four-phase approach to bullying.

Primary Prevention

- Professional development for staff relating to bullying, harassment and proven counter measures.
- Each Educator to clarify with children the types of bullying, as well as the consequences and impact of bullying.
- Community awareness and input relating to bullying, its characteristics and the Centre's programs and response, complemented by clear processes for reporting suspected bullying.
- The provision of programs that promote inclusiveness, resilience, life and social skills, assertiveness, conflict resolution and problem solving will form an integral part of our curriculum. In particular, assertiveness training and



bystander training that builds skills in children to challenge and/or report unacceptable behaviour will be central to our curriculum.

- A bullying survey to be introduced, administered and responded to annually.
- Anti-bullying messages and posters will be implemented and displayed around the Centre.
- Electives and structured activities will be available to children during service operation.
- Cybersafety awareness resources will be provided for parents.

Isolated, Infrequent or Less Serious Incidents:

- All instances of suspected bullying or inappropriate behaviour must be responded to by staff.
- Parents are encouraged to contact the Centre if they suspect a bullying or behaviour problem.
- The Centre will reinforce with children the importance of appropriately reporting incidents of inappropriate behaviour involving themselves or others, and the imperative that staff respond appropriately and proportionally to each allegation consistent with the Centre's Child Code of Conduct, including the proper reporting and recording of the incident on our on-line behaviour tracker.
- Parents are to be contacted if their child is alleged to have been bullied or experienced inappropriate behaviour, or if their child appears to have behaved inappropriately or bullied someone else.
- Appropriate and proportional consequences may include a verbal apology, writing a letter of regret, completing a Behaviour Incident booklet, loss of privileges, etc.
- Public recognition and reward for positive behaviour and resolution of problems will occur as appropriate.

Repetitive or Serious Incidents:

- Serious incidents and/or repetitive incidents of bullying or unacceptable behaviour must be reported, responded to by staff and documented.
- Serious incidents are those that include physical assault, sexual assault, criminal activity involving theft or serious damage of property, serious threats or homophobic bullying etc.
- All such incidents or allegations will be properly investigated and documented. Depending upon the nature of each incident, they may be also be reported to and investigated by police.
- The Centre may contact support professionals such as Welfare officers, Welfare coordinators or Councillors and/or Support Officers for assistance and support.
- Children, staff and parents identified by others as bullies will be informed of allegations.
- Both bullies and victims will be offered counselling and support.
- All repetitive or serious incidents must be brought to the attention of the Director and Executives of the Centre.



- The most appropriate staff member will contact parents of the targeted child. Director and/or Executives will contact alleged perpetrators unless advised by police not to do so.
- Centre executive, in conjunction with the Management Committee will provide support as appropriate, and the Director will monitor the investigation and review the situation until matters are appropriately resolved.
- Consequences of serious incidents may include criminal charges, suspension, expulsion, loss of privileges, counselling, conciliation or any other consequences consistent with the Centre’s Child Code of Conduct.
- A management strategy for all parties will be developed in consultation with the children and parents involved.
- Parents or community members who bully or harass or abuse staff will be provided with official warnings, and if necessary, referred to the police, and/or have an Enclosed Lands Act placed upon them by the Director.

Post Incident:

It is important that appropriate strategies are put in place after the incident has been resolved for all children involved. Appropriate strategies may include:

- conciliation meetings between all parties
- ongoing monitoring of children involved.
- identification of an agreed key contact staff member for each child involved.
- follow-up meetings regarding each child’s management strategy.
- ongoing communication with parents.
- counselling from appropriate agencies of support officers etc for both parties.
- reinforcement of positive behaviours and appropriate behaviour strategies.

CONSIDERATIONS

Education and Care Services National Law & Regulations	National Quality Standards & Elements	Links to other Service Policies	Other Documentation/ Evidence
	Standards 2.2, 5.2 Elements 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 5.2.1, 5.2.2	Behaviour Management Policy	

ENDORSEMENT BY THE SERVICE

Approval date: July 2022 _____

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