Mount Pritchard Public School
Deeds Not Words
Anti-Bullying Policy

Mount Pritchard Public school adheres to the principles outlined by <u>Student Discipline in Government Schools Policy</u>

Objectives - Policy statement

Good discipline is fundamental to the achievement of government priorities for the public school system. In line with this, schools must have a school discipline policy which is developed in consultation with school community members. The policy must contain four components. These are:

the discipline code or school rules.

strategies and practices to promote positive student behaviour, including specific strategies to maintain a climate of respect.

strategies and practices to recognise and reinforce student achievement.

strategies and practices to manage inappropriate student behaviour.

In implementing the

Bullying of Students - Prevention and Response

This policy sets out the department's position on student bullying and the requirements for preventing and responding to student bullying, including online bullying, in NSW public schools and preschools.

1. **Policy statement**

    a. The department rejects all forms of bullying behaviour including online (or cyber) bullying.

    b. NSW public schools work to provide safe, inclusive, and respectful learning communities that promote student wellbeing.

c. The department's Behaviour Code for Students (PDF 82.5 KB) requires students to be inclusive and respect other students, their teachers, school staff, and community members, and to not bully, harass, intimidate, or discriminate against anyone in our schools.

d. Schools are required to establish strategies and practices to encourage positive student behaviour, recognise and reinforce student achievement and wellbeing, and manage disruptive student behaviour, as outlined in the Student Discipline in Government Schools policy.

e. School staff need to encourage high levels of parental and community involvement in the school to improve student attendance, engagement, learning and behaviour.

f. Each school must complete and implement the Anti-bullying plan (PDF 1223.4 KB).

g. Bullying behaviour has three key features. It involves the intentional misuse of power in a relationship. It is ongoing and repeated, and it involves behaviours that can cause harm.

h. Bullying behaviour can also involve intimidation, victimisation and harassment, including that based on sex, race, religion, disability or sexual orientation, both online and offline.

i. Bullying can be illegal if it involves behaviours that include physical violence, threats of violence, damaging property or stalking.

j. The NSW anti-bullying websiteExternal link supports school staff, parents and carers, volunteers and contracted staff, and students to discourage, prevent, identify and respond effectively to student bullying behaviour, where it does occur.

k. Preventing and responding to bullying is the shared responsibility of all school staff, volunteers, and contracted staff employed by schools, and students, parents and carers.

l. Teachers and other school staff are provided with support and professional development to discourage, prevent, identify and respond to student bullying behaviour.

m. Reports of student bullying can be made to any staff member at a school. A teacher or school executive staff (such as the principal, deputy principal or assistant principal, head teacher) at the school will address the reported bullying in a timely manner.

n. If a student, parent or carer believes a matter is not being dealt with effectively, they can refer the matter to the school's principal (or delegate) for resolution.

o. If the student, parent or carer still has concerns, after referring the matter to the school's principal (or delegate), and would like advice, they can contact

the <u>learning and wellbeing advisor or officer</u> at the local departmental office. If the matter is then still not resolved they can contact the <u>Director, Educational Leadership</u>, at the local departmental office, who must follow the <u>Complaints Handling policy</u>.

p. For incidents of physical violence, and where required, staff should administer first aid (consistent with their training and experience) and contact emergency services whenever necessary. Staff must also report the incident to the Incident Reporting and Support Hotline on 1800 811 523.

2. Audience and applicability

a. This policy applies to all NSW public schools and preschools.

b. This policy applies to all student bullying behaviour, including online (cyber) bullying, and applies outside of school hours and off school premises where students have been involved and there is a clear and close connection to the school.

3. Context

a. Public schools must comply with the NSW Education Standards Authority requirement to provide a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for students.

b. Ways to prevent or respond to student bullying behaviour are addressed through teaching and learning programs across the key learning areas including the self and relationships strand of the mandatory personal development, health and physical education curriculum.

c. This policy relates to student bullying in public schools. The <u>Work, Health and Safety policy</u> applies to staff bullying in public schools. When bullying involves a student and staff member, both policies apply.

4. Responsibilities and delegations

Teachers:

a. support the school in maintaining a safe, inclusive and supportive learning environment

b. model and promote appropriate relationships and behaviours

c. promote a school culture where bullying is not acceptable

d. teach students to identify, report and respond to bullying at school and online

e. manage reports of bullying and escalate matters to the principal (or delegate) when necessary.

f. Non-teaching staff:

    g.   refer any report of bullying to a teacher or school executive staff.

    Principals (or their delegate):

    h.   complete and implement the <u>Anti-bullying plan (PDF 1223.4 KB)</u> for their school

    i.   maintain a positive school climate that includes respectful relationships

    j.   identify patterns of bullying behaviour and initiate school action to respond

    k.   manage complaints about bullying in accordance with the <u>Complaints Handling policy</u>.

Directors, educational leadership:

    a.   manage complaints about how a school has responded to a report of bullying in accordance with the <u>Complaints Handling policy</u>

    b.   where required, assist schools to implement the Anti-bullying plan, to best meet the needs of the school community

5. **Monitoring and review**

    a.   The principal reviews the Anti-bullying plan every year.

    b.   The Director, Student Engagement and Interagency Partnerships monitors the implementation of this policy, regularly reviews its contents to ensure relevance and accuracy, and updates it as needed.

Mount Pritchard Public School supports

Staying safe online

A guide for students to staying safe online, and how to respond to online bullying.

Online bullying

Online bullying – or cyberbullying – means using technology like the internet or mobile devices to bully someone. It might include:

sending abusive texts and emails

posting unkind messages or images

imitating others online

excluding others online

tagging people in pictures against their wishes

threatening another person to do something such as sending revealing images.

What should I do if I'm bullied online?

Stay calm.

Don't respond when you're angry or upset.

Tell someone: a parent or carer, relative, adult friend, teacher or the school's counsellor or psychologist. Ask for advice.
If you want to talk to someone other than your school or your family you can contact Kids HelplineExternal link. You can call them for free on 1800 55 1800.

How do I report it?

Keep records of calls or messages that are offensive or hurtful.
Report serious online bullying to the Office of the eSafety CommissionerExternal link

Call the police if you are physically threatened.

How can I protect myself on the phone?

To stay safe, remember to:

only give your phone number to people you know and trust

keep your phone away from people who shouldn't have your number

use caller ID blocking to hide your number when you call others

consider whether your messages or calls are appropriate

always check the privacy settings on your phone.

How can I protect myself on social media?

To stay safe, remember to:

regularly check and re-set the privacy settings on your social network profiles

only share your personal information with people you know and trust

be careful when posting images – they could be shared in public places

never share your passwords with anyone.