

THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF PARENTS

As parents you can:

Be aware of the signs of distress in your child, e.g. 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 incidence of bullying with a teacher. If possible, first 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
- ✦ Be willing to inform the school of any cases of suspected bullying even if your child is not directly involved or affected
- ✦ Do not deal directly with the other children or their parents but work through and with the school
- ✦ Discuss with your child the school's expectations about behaviour and how best to deal with bullying.
- ✦ Monitor your child's internet usage and relationships.
- ✦ Establish open communication about cyber interactions.

THE RESTORATIVE APPROACH

We use a 'Restorative Approach' to deal with incidents of bullying. Briefly this approach consists of the following:

1. 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.
2. Each student is asked about the problem and to suggest ways in which he or she personally could help to improve the situation.
3. The person being bullied is also given the opportunity to discuss what happened and encouraged to think of ways to improve the situation.
4. Follow-up meetings, discussions and planning give students the opportunity to change and improve their attitudes and behaviour and to 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 inappropriate behaviour, we will put consequences 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. Our school does not use a 'One size fits all approach.'

These procedures have been ratified and endorsed by the Freeling Primary School Governing Council, Staff and Students. March 2012. To be reviewed in 2014.

FREELING PRIMARY SCHOOL and Preschool

POLICY STATEMENT ON ANTI-BULLYING



'Together We Learn'

Our vision

In partnership with the wider community, students at Freeling Primary School will be successful, confident, resilient and positive life-long learners.

Our Mission

To inspire and support the learning and development of all students to become confident, responsible individuals who will contribute positively to our world.

Our school's vision and mission statements challenge us to create a positive learning community in which everyone feels valued and respected.

We do not tolerate bullying or harassment in any form.

BULLYING IS:

- ✦ A repeated and unjustifiable behaviour;
- ✦ Intended to cause fear, distress and/or harm to another;
- ✦ Physical, verbal or indirect/relational;
- ✦ Conducted by a more powerful individual or group;
- ✦ Against a less powerful individual who is unable to effectively resist.

SOME EXAMPLES OF BULLYING

Physical : someone using strength to hurt a weaker/smaller person, can involve hitting, tripping, pushing etc.

Verbal: on going name calling and teasing, spreading rumours, threats and intimidation.

Ethnicity: when someone's race is used against them.

Emotional: Using status in a group, excluding, ridiculing, humiliating in an ongoing way.

Non verbal: threatening and obscene gestures, electronic messaging.

WHAT CAN I DO?

If it happens to me:

- ✦ 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, a trustworthy friend or buddy. Feel confident that an incident can be solved
- ✦ Talk it over openly 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

If it happens to someone else:

- ✦ Tell the person to stop bullying
- ✦ Be a friend to the person being bullied
- ✦ Encourage the person being bullied to inform someone
- ✦ Seek help. You can decide to do something about it and help to protect others
- ✦ Talk it over with a staff member or another adult.

WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST BULLYING AT FREELING PRIMARY SCHOOL

WHAT WE DO AT FREELING PRIMARY SCHOOL TO REDUCE BULLYING

PREVENTION

- ✦ Use the curriculum to teach students about respectful relationships and being a good citizen.
- ✦ Develop programs to help students
- ✦ Teach students about conflict resolution.
- ✦ Teach about diversity.
- ✦ Provide professional learning for staff in collaboration with local agencies.
- ✦ Implement the Child Protection Curriculum
- ✦ Years 3-7 involved in Cyber Bullying awareness.

INTERVENTION

- ✦ Counsel students who have been bullied.
- ✦ Talk to parents / carers of the bullied and the bully about the situation.
- ✦ Implement negotiated consequences for those who bully others.
- ✦ Teach students not to be bystanders and go for assistance from any member of staff.
- ✦ Ensure all staff know how to address bullying effectively and respectfully.
- ✦ Implement the grievance procedure if necessary.

POST INTERVENTION

- ✦ Monitor the situation to ensure student safety and well being are maintained
- ✦ Talk with parents / carers about strategies to help bullied children
- ✦ Review our classroom and yard procedures to ensure they are effective
- ✦ Review and evaluate our anti bullying policy every 3 years