Huntingdon Public School’s

Bullying: Preventing and Responding to Student Bullying in Schools Policy

This policy is written in accordance with the Department of Education’s requirements for preventing and responding to student bullying in NSW government schools.

Huntingdon Public School (Huntingdon) rejects all forms of bullying. No student, employee, parent, caregiver or community member should experience bullying within the learning or working environments of the Department of Education and Training. This applies to all student bullying behaviour, including cyberbullying, that occurs both at Huntingdon, and off school premises and outside of school hours where there is a clear and close relationship between the school and the conduct of the student.

Bullying is repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more people. Cyberbullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies.

Bullying can involve humiliation, domination, intimidation, victimisation and all forms of harassment including that based on sex, race, disability, homosexuality or transgender. Bullying of any form or for any reason can have long-term effects on those involved including bystanders. Conflict or fights between equals or single incidents are not defined as bullying.

Schools exist in a society where incidents of bullying behaviour may occur. Preventing and responding to bullying behaviour in learning and working environments is a shared responsibility of all Huntingdon staff, students, parents, caregivers and members of the wider school community.

All members of the school community contribute to the prevention of bullying by modelling and promoting appropriate behaviour and respectful relationships. It is the Principal’s duty to ensure the implementation of this Anti-bullying Plan as developed collaboratively with students, school staff, parents, caregivers, and the community. It is designed to develop a shared understanding of bullying behaviour that captures all forms of bullying including cyberbullying.

The Principal is responsible for:

- maintaining a positive climate of respectful relationships where bullying is less likely to occur;
- embedding anti-bullying messages annually into each curriculum area;
- developing and implementing early intervention support for students who are identified by the school as being at risk of developing long-term difficulties with social relationships;
- developing and implementing early intervention support for those students who are identified at or after enrolment as having previously experienced bullying or engaged in bullying behaviour;

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- empowering the whole school community to recognise and respond appropriately to bullying, harassment and victimisation and behave as responsible bystanders;
- publicising the procedures for reporting incidents of bullying to the school;
- responding to incidents of bullying that have been reported to the school quickly and effectively;
- matching a planned combination of interventions to the particular incident of bullying;
- providing support to any student who has been affected by, engaged in or witnessed bullying behaviour;
- providing regular updates, within the bounds of privacy legislation, to parents or caregivers about the management of the incidents;
- identifying patterns of bullying behaviour and responding to such patterns;
- monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the Plan;
- reporting annually to the school community on the effectiveness of the Plan, include procedures consistent with DN10/00225 – Reporting incidents involving assaults, threats, intimidation or harassment and the Incident Reporting Policy (Intranet only); and
- informing the Huntington community of the Department of Education and Training’s appeal procedures and Complaints Handling Policy.

Huntingdon staff have a responsibility to:

- respect and support students;
- model and promote appropriate behaviour;
- have knowledge of school and departmental policies relating to bullying behaviour;
- provide curriculum and pedagogy that supports students to develop an understanding of bullying and its impact on individuals and the broader community; and
- respond in a timely manner to incidents of bullying according to Huntington’s Anti-bullying Plan.

Huntingdon students have a responsibility to:

- behave appropriately, respecting individual differences and diversity;
- behave as responsible digital citizens;
- follow the school Anti-bullying Plan;
- behave as responsible bystanders; and
- report incidents of bullying according to Huntington’s Anti-bullying Plan.

Huntingdon’s parents and caregivers have a responsibility to:

- support their children to become responsible citizens and to develop responsible on-line behaviour;
- be aware of Huntington’s Anti-bullying Plan and assist their children in understanding bullying behaviour.

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• support their children in developing positive responses to incidents of bullying consistent with Huntingdon's Anti-bullying Plan;
• report incidents of school related bullying behaviour to the school; and
• work collaboratively with the school to resolve incidents of bullying if/when they occur.
• All members of the Huntingdon community have the responsibility to:
• model and promote positive relationships that respect and accept individual differences and diversity within the school community;
• support Huntingdon's Anti-bullying Plan through words and actions; and
• work collaboratively with the school to resolve incidents of bullying when they occur.

The Principal is responsible for:
• implementing the policy within the school;
• submitting a copy of Huntingdon’s Anti-bullying Plan to the Director, Public Schools whenever it is reviewed;
• report annually to the school community on the effectiveness of Huntingdon’s Anti-bullying Plan

The Mid North Coast Educational Director is responsible for monitoring the implementation of this policy and reporting to the regional director.

Policy created by: R. McCann Date: 30/7/15
In consultation with: L. Parker (Principal) Date: 30/7/15
J. Elliott Date: 30/7/15
K. Oszpet Date: 30/7/15

* To Be Reviewed During Staff Development Day – Term 2, 2016.