

# HEANY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

## STUDENT ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

### **PURPOSE**

To 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 their school environment at all times.

### **DEFINITIONS**

- Bullying is a deliberate and repeated pattern of behaviour by one person or a group, towards others which is intended to hurt, injure, embarrass, upset or cause discomfort. It may include:
  - physical aggression
  - use of put down comments or insults
  - name calling
  - damage to a person's property
  - spreading of rumours to damage a person's reputation
  - exclusion from activities
  - setting up of humiliating experiences
- Cyber Bullying is a form of bullying which is carried out through an online service such as email, chat room, discussion group, online social networking, instant messaging or web pages. It can also include bullying through mobile phone technologies such as SMS and may involve text or images. Examples of cyber bullying behaviour are:
  - teasing and being made fun of
  - spreading rumours online
  - sending unwanted messages
  - defamation

### **OBJECTIVES**

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

### **GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION.**

- All students are acknowledged and valued as individuals, regardless of gender, racial, cultural, religious, physical or intellectual differences.
- All forms of bullying whether it be physical, verbal or cyber will not be tolerated at any level.
- As a school we develop behaviours conducive to the school values through Essential Agreements in each class and Circle Time activities.
- Bullying is addressed through the provision of a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment, which promotes the school values.
- The provision of programs that promote inclusiveness, resilience, life and social skills, assertiveness, conflict resolution and problem solving form an integral part of our curriculum.
- A Buddy System is to be maintained across the school.
- All students are informed that if they are bullied, teachers are available to support them. Students are encouraged to report incidents to a teacher, be it the class teacher or yard teacher or another teacher within the school.
- The staff member investigating a bullying incident will use a restorative conference to establish the facts; discuss the impact of the incident; and develop a solution.

- Parents are informed that if they believe their child is being bullied, they should contact the school. This could include a teacher, the Principal or Assistant Principal.
- Students will sign the 'Heany Park PS Acceptable Use Agreement for Internet and Digital Technologies' as a way of promoting safe use of technology.
- In the case where it is confirmed that the incident is bullying, the school will provide support and opportunity for counselling for the recipient and the student who bullied.
- The school may contact support professionals, i.e. School Student Support Officers, for assistance and advice.
- Students identified by others as bullies will be informed of allegations.
- All repetitive or serious incidents must be brought to the attention of the Principal / Assistant Principal.
- The parents of the targeted child and the perpetrator are notified.
- The Principal will monitor any investigation and review the situation until matters are appropriately resolved. Regional office will provide support as appropriate.
- Consequences of repetitive or serious incidents may include loss of privileges, counselling or conciliation, suspensions, expulsions or criminal charges.

## **EVALUATION**

Evaluation of this policy will be carried out by the Leadership and Level Leaders Team as part of the Education and Policy Committee's cyclic review process, in four years time or beforehand if a significant issue arises.

Approval Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017  
Review Date: May 2021

Signed :

Janet Evison  
*Principal*

Chris Parker  
*School Council President*