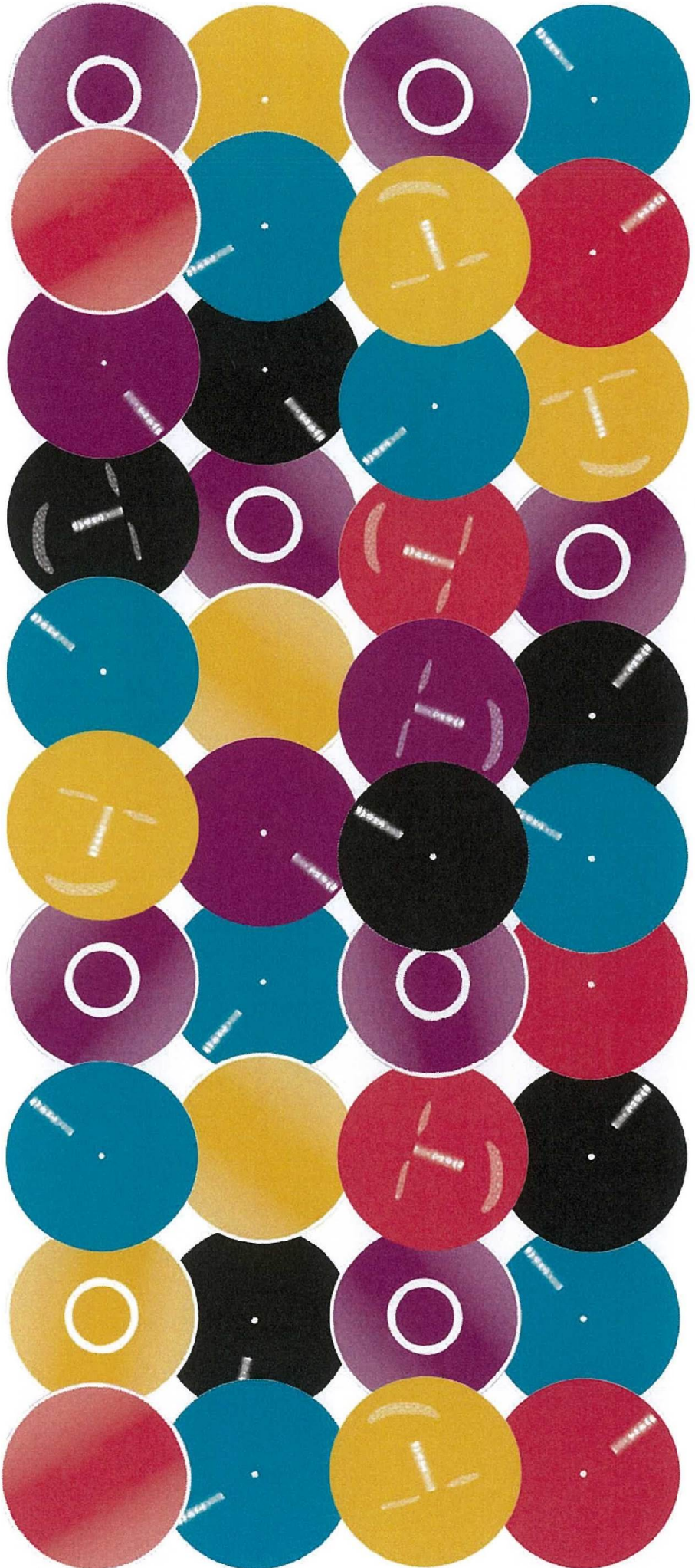




Anti-Bullying Plan

Moama Public School





# Bullying:

## Preventing and Responding to Student Bullying in Schools Policy (2021)

The NSW Department of Education and Communities 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.

### Bullying

**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 persons. Cyber bullying 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.**

Bullying behaviour can be:

- **verbal** e.g. name calling,

teasing, abuse, putdowns, sarcasm, insults, threats

- **physical** ego hitting, punching, kicking, scratching, tripping, spitting
- **social** e.g. ignoring, excluding, ostracising, alienating, making inappropriate gestures
- **psychological** ego spreading rumours, dirty looks, hiding or damaging possessions, malicious SMS and email messages, inappropriate use of camera phones.

The term "bullying" has a specific meaning. The school's Anti-bullying Plan sets out **the processes for preventing and responding to student bullying**. The school has a range of policies and practices, including welfare and discipline policies that apply to student behaviour generally.

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 departmental staff, students, parents, caregivers and members of the wider school community.

**School 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
- respond in a timely manner to incidents of bullying according to the school's Anti-bullying Plan.

In addition, teachers have a responsibility to:

- provide curriculum and pedagogy that supports students to develop an understanding of bullying and its impact on individuals and the broader community.

**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
- report incidents of bullying according to their school Anti-bullying Plan.

**Parents and caregivers** have a responsibility to:

- support their children to become responsible citizens and to develop responsible online behaviour

- be aware of the school Anti-bullying Plan and assist their children in understanding bullying behaviour
- support their children in developing positive responses to incidents with the school Anti-bullying Plan
- report incidents of school related bullying behaviour to the school
- work collaboratively with the school to resolve incidents of bullying when they occur.

**All members of the school community** have a responsibility to:

- model and promote positive relationships that respect and accept individual differences and diversity within the school community
- support the school's Anti-bullying Plan through words and actions
- work collaboratively with the school to resolve incidents of bullying when they occur.



# Our School Anti-Bullying Plan

This plan outlines the processes for preventing and responding to student bullying in our school and reflects the *Bullying: Preventing and Responding to Student Bullying in Schools Policy* of the New South Wales Department of Education.

This Anti-Bullying Plan was developed in consultation with the Principal, teachers, Welfare staff and members of the wider school community. The plan will be informally evaluated each year, reporting the effectiveness back to the community through the P&C and newsletter. Every three years, the plan will be formally reviewed.

## Statement of purpose

Moama Public School aims to provide a safe, secure and disciplined learning environment that is fair to all students; this includes self-acceptance and respect for others and the principles of social justice.

Everyone at Moama Public School has the right to experience positive respectful relationships. Students and staff also have the right to learn and teach in a happy and safe environment in which there is no room for bullying behaviours. Teachers, students, parents, caregivers and members of the wider community have a responsibility to work together to address bullying.

## Protection

Bullying behaviours occur when there is an imbalance of power with deliberate intent to cause harm or distress. These behaviours are repeated or ongoing and can be physical, verbal, social or psychological. There are usually three parties who are involved with bullying behaviours; those doing the bullying, those being bullied and those who are looking on. All three parties have a role to play in stopping incidents of bullying occurring at school.

The school is not responsible for bullying behaviour which occurs after hours and is unrelated to school. However, if this conduct becomes an issue at school where the safety and learning of students is impacted, the school's Anti-Bullying Plan will apply.

## Bullying Behaviours

**Physical Bullying:** Pushing, hitting, kicking, tripping, spitting, throwing objects.

**Verbal Bullying:** name calling, put downs, racist remarks, threats or harassment.

**Social Bullying:** deliberate exclusion, ignoring, hiding, forcing others to act against their will.

**Psychological Bullying:** spreading rumours, hiding others' belongings, giving dirty looks.

**Cyber Bullying:** using social media, phone, computer and internet technologies to harass or threaten others.

## Responsibilities of the School Community

Bullying is anti-social. It has no place at Moama Public School. It is the responsibility of every member of the school community to be pre-active in ensuring that bullying behaviour is rejected.

### Teacher Responsibilities

All teachers are expected to:

- Model appropriate behaviour and act as role models for students in what they say and what they do in every class and in the playground.

Respect and support students in all aspects of their learning

- Ensure classes are safe places- free from ridicule and harassment and where possessions are not interfered with by others.
- Be vigilant in the monitoring of bullying incidents and intervene in an appropriate and timely manner.
- Participate in an annual review of bullying, the Anti-Bullying Plan and discussion of strategies to deal with bullying.

### **Student Responsibilities**

All students are expected to:

- Behave appropriately, respecting individual differences and diversity.
- Prevent bullying from happening wherever possible.
- Report any instances of bullying they have witnessed at school to a parent, carer or teacher as soon as possible.

All students are encouraged to:

- Stand up for the victim in an appropriate manner without fear of reprisal.
- Understand the anti-social nature of bullying.
- Actively participate in anti-bullying initiatives

### **Parent Responsibilities**

All parents are encouraged to:

\*Watch for signs of distress in their children (Change of eating habits, torn clothing, unexplained bruises, scratches, nightmares, frequent headaches, lost or damaged books or possessions, unwillingness to go to school, unhappiness, symptoms of anxiety, a change in friendship groups in a short period of time.)

\* Support their child by; listen to their child and investigate carefully, encourage their child to report bullying behaviours to their teachers, encourage their child to be assertive and say **NO** to bullying behaviours, encourage positive friendships, monitor their child's use of the internet, phone and texts and monitor their child's social media posts).

\*Contact their child's teacher or the Principal to report incidents of bullying concerning their child, including repeat bullying.

\*Discourage bullying behaviours.

### **Prevention**

The school aims to teach all staff and students about appropriate behaviours through anti-bullying programs targeted at whole school, year group, small group and individual levels.

Whole School Initiatives

\*To raise awareness of bullying and bullying behaviours by issuing an information pamphlet to all new enrolments and each family via the newsletter each year.

\*To regularly remind students at assembly about bullying behaviours and the consequences of such behaviours.

\*To promote positive friendships and values at school through PBL.

\* Utilising the skills of the School Counsellor and School Chaplain to work with small groups and individuals on building resilience and strategies with students and staff.

\* Annual Youth Liaison Police Officer Cyber Safety talks and Cyber Safety Video Conferences to Infants and Primary students separately.

### **Anti-Bullying in Curriculum Areas**

\*Anti-Bullying sessions are held during whole school Peer Support, focusing on being pro-active bystanders.

\*Subjects such as PD/H/PE through positive relationships program content, English through analysing texts and Geography through cultural differences, discuss and teach anti-bullying behaviours.

\*Explicit teaching of school values in classes.

### **Early Intervention**

To ensure early intervention the school will continue to raise awareness and educate students and staff on anti-bullying behaviours.

The school encourages students, parents and staff to report any behaviours that indicate bullying and make them aware of how to do so appropriately so that situations can be diffused accordingly.

The school will continue to give ongoing support to students and their families who are experiencing or have experienced bullying.

The School Counsellor, School Chaplain along with teachers and the Principal will work together to monitor and support students who are the perpetrators or victims of bullying.

Other Community Help Services can be accessed by students, parents or staff to assist with support for students. These include:

\*Kids Helpline - 1800 551 800 or [www.kidshelpline.com.au](http://www.kidshelpline.com.au)

\*Bullying No Way - [www.bullyingnoway.com.au](http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au)

\* Local GPs and counselling services; Centacare, Intereach, Vinnies.

### **Response**

Each year, all staff are reminded of their responsibilities regarding responding to bullying and the counsellor is available to speak with staff

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about effective strategies to deal with incidents of bullying. This is followed up by newsletter articles, parenting ideas and reminders that bullying is not tolerated at Moama Public School.

### **Supporting Students Affected by Bullying**

When any student has been affected by, engaged in or witnessed bullying behaviour, the school will implement the following strategies.

Parents/carers will be notified via a phone call. The school will work closely with the family to ensure their child feels safe at school.

The services of the School Counsellor and School Chaplain will be offered. Teachers and the Principal will implement strategies in the classroom and playground. The students will continue to participate in whole school, year level or small group activities to assist in building positive relationships, resilience and be engaged in school.

### **Privacy Legislation**

Where an incident of bullying has been reported to the school, regular updates may be provided to parents/carers over the phone or at an arranged meeting to discuss the management of reported bullying incidents, within the bounds of privacy legislation when necessary. Parents/carers and students will be asked to contact the school if the bullying continues.

The discussion will only include details of their child affected by the situation and how the school is assisting to provide a safe learning environment for them. This ensures confidentiality of other students and staff members.

### **Incident Report and Support Hotline**

Should an incident involve the physical assault of a student or member of staff, intimidation, harassment or involve physical threats of violence, the matter will be referred to the police, via the schools Incident Report and Support Hotline.

### **Contact with the NSW Child Wellbeing Unit or Community Services**

Where there is a threat of significant harm to a student, the Principal will consult the Mandatory Reporters Guide and the matter will be dealt with in accordance with DoE Child Protection procedures.

### **Complaints Handling Policy**

Should a parent/carer believe the school has not acted in the best interests of their child in the resolution of bullying incidents, they may wish to express their concern. The following is a guideline for doing so.

It is best to discuss your concerns with your child's teacher first. Make an appropriate time to meet with them or phone the school for an appointment.

If you are not happy with the result, or you do not feel it is appropriate to talk to them, phone and make an appointment to discuss your concerns with the Principal.

If your complaint is about the Principal, you will need to contact the Director, Public Schools NSW in Deniliquin. Ask the school office for their name and phone number.

If your complaint cannot be resolved in an informal way, the Director may ask you to put it in writing. It is important that you include specific details of the situation and tell the Director what you would like to happen as a result of your complaint. Help is available to put your complaint in writing, if required.

The complaint will be investigated in a timely manner and will follow the Department of Education's Complaints Handling Policy.

### **Identifying Patterns of Bullying**

The school has a reporting process, where incidents are referred to the Principal, monitored and patterns are identified.

Any identified students may then be referred to the Learning and Support Team and monitored in class and in the playground, in accordance with the schools' Welfare and Discipline policy.

### **Publicising the Anti-Bullying Plan**

This plan will be made available to the wider school community in the school newsletter and will be posted and updated on the school website. Students and staff will be reminded of the anti-bullying protocols via staff meetings and at assembly.

### **Evaluating the Anti-Bullying Plan**

This plan will be evaluated on an ongoing basis as it is being implemented. Information will be collated from information referred to the Principal, Learning and Support Team minutes, as well as student data from welfare staff and the School Counsellor, which will identify the effectiveness of the plan.

A formal review of this policy will take place every three years and will involve parents, teachers and students.

### **Reporting the Effectiveness of the Anti-Bullying Plan**

A report on the Anti-Bullying Plan will be given by the Principal to the P&C meeting in Term 4 of each year.

### **School Community Review**

This policy will be reviewed formally by the community in Term 1 every third year as an agenda item in P&C, Junior School Council and whole school staff meetings.

## Additional Information

### Support Services Contact Information

Kids Helpline -1800 551 800 [www.kidshelpline.com.au](http://www.kidshelpline.com.au)

Bullying No Way- [www.bullyingnoway.com.au](http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au)

Echuca Regional Health – 0354 855 234

Intereach - Echuca - 1300 488 226

St Vincent De Paul, Deniliquin - 03 5881 7411

St Vincent De Paul, Echuca – 0354 823 568

### Principal's comment

This plan was developed by the team listed below and was publicised in draft form in February 2021. The plan has been endorsed by all members of the Anti-Bullying Team. It will be published on the school's website and is stored on the school intranet.

### Anti-Bullying Team

Scott McKenzie - Principal

Laurie Delbridge - Teacher and Anti-Racism Contact Officer

Di Nash - School Counsellor

### School contact information

Email: [moama-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:moama-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Web: <https://moama-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>