

Anti-Bullying Procedures

Revised 2024



RATIONALE

Georges River College Peakhurst Campus aim to deliver a dynamic secondary education with diverse and flexible programs within in an inclusive, supportive and harmonious school community. Students have a responsibility to behave appropriately, respecting individual differences and diversity. Students are expected to respond to incidents of bullying according to our Anti-Bullying Plan. Parents or caregivers have a responsibility to support their children in developing positive responses to incidents of bullying consistent with our Anti-Bullying Plan.

Georges River College Peakhurst Campus has a responsibility to inform the whole school community about our Student Wellbeing and Management Policy and our Anti-Bullying Plan. It is our responsibility to provide parents, staff and students with clear information regarding school expectations that promote appropriate positive behaviour and learning. (PBL)

Our school and college values are:

Respect for self and others

Responsibility for our actions

Excellence in all areas of learning

GRC Peakhurst Campus **fosters** the school community's belief that every student has the **right** to:

- Be taught in a safe, inclusive and supportive learning environment
- Be known, cared for and valued as an individual
- Be treated with respect at all times

GRC Peakhurst Campus has a zero tolerance towards all forms of **Bullying and/or cyber-bullying**.

BULLYING

Deliberate, repeated and targeted psychological, emotional and/or physical harassment of one person by another or a group, occurring at school or in transit between school and home. Bullying involves the abuse of power in relationships. Bullying can involve all forms of harassment (including sex, race, disability or homosexuality), humiliation, domination and intimidation of others. Bullying of any form or for any reason can have long term effects on those involved including bystanders.

Bullying behaviour can be:

- **Verbal** – name calling, continued teasing, spreading rumours, abuse, putdowns, sarcasm, insults, threatening physical abuse
- **Physical** – hitting, punching, kicking, scratching, tripping, spitting, hair pulling, biting
- **Social** – ignoring, excluding, ostracising, alienating, making inappropriate gestures, inappropriate use of mobile phones, malicious SMS/Email message
- **Psychological** – spreading rumours, dirty looks, hiding or damaging possessions, stand over tactics and forcing a student to do something they do not want to do
- **Racism** – making racial slurs, mocking cultural traditions, making offensive gestures
- **Sexual** – unwanted physical contact, offensive jokes, abusive comments related to supposed sexual behaviour
- **Cyber-bullying** – refers to bullying through information and communication technology

STRATEGIES TO PREVENT/MANAGE BULLYING

At Georges River College Peakhurst Campus we will continue to foster an inclusive school culture that supports all students and values the diversity of the student, staff and community population including culture, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, physical ability and economic status. We will continue to further enhance opportunities for connectedness and engagement in learning through supportive learning environments.

We will maintain student wellbeing systems that enable all students to feel safe and valued.

- Peer Support Program
- Year Meetings
- Wellbeing Team
- Student Wellbeing Seminars and Presentations

STUDENTS:

- must report all incidents to the teacher
- must not retaliate
- are encouraged to seek support from friends
- avoid risky situations
- stand up for yourself and others being bullied by being assertive
- talk about it with others who can help you decide how to handle the situation – friends, teachers, Year Advisor, Peer Support leader and School Counsellor

PARENTS:

- ask your child about their day
- talk to your child about the impact of bullying
- contact the school if you are aware of or suspect bullying

TEACHERS:

- engage in current professional learning programs on bully prevention strategies / plans
- intervene if they witness or suspect a student is being bullied
- report the incident to an Executive Teacher or Student Advisor
- record the incident on SENTRAL

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL/ PRINCIPAL:

- monitor bullying behaviour of students who are repeat offenders
- organise support programs for victims, bullies and bystanders
- liaise with parents or caregivers
- implement anti-bullying messages into the curriculum
- update SENTRAL entries
- follow DoE guidelines

CYBER-BULLYING

Cyber-bullying is an intentional, repeated behaviour by an individual or group to cause distress or undue pressure to others using technology.

Cyber-bullying includes all communications that seek to threaten, humiliate, intimidate, control or put another person or persons down.

Cyber-bullying is part of the school's anti-bullying policy and must be reported immediately.

All members of the school community are expected to model and promote positive relationships that respect individual differences and diversity. Year advisors and HT Student Wellbeing will develop and run programs on cyber-bullying through presentations, media studies and incursions each year and for every year group.

STRATEGIES TO PREVENT/MANAGE CYBER-BULLYING

STUDENTS will:

- Not respond online to the bully
- Block or delete the person
- Save the evidence and print it out
- Report all incidents to either : Teacher, Year Advisor, Head Teacher or Deputy Principal

PARENTS will:

- Support their children in developing positive online usage on all forms of technological media
- Be open and transparent to any discussion around cyber bullying and listen to your child's concerns
- Notify the school if they observe changed behaviours in their child or have concerns about cyber bullying

TEACHERS will:

- Set classroom expectations for ICT
- When evidence is presented by the student, do not delete but download, save, confiscate and refer to senior management, counsellor and parents
- Record on SENTRAL database
- Respect and support students

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL/ PRINCIPAL will:

- Fully investigate the incident
- Implement school procedures
- Contact parents
- If necessary - Involve School Counsellor, Year Advisors, Youth Workers
- Contact Police as necessary

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Georges River College Peakhurst Campus' Anti-bullying plans are to be reviewed regularly. Patterns of student behaviour will continue to be monitored through the SENTRAL student management and data administration system.

For further information – please refer to the Department of Education Bullying of Students – Prevention and Response Policy

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/bullying-of-students-prevention-and-response-policy>