



Anti-Bullying Policy

GRC Peakhurst Campus

School Mission Statement

We deliver an excellent secondary education with diverse and flexible programs in a school which is inclusive, tolerant and harmonious.

Values

Respect for self and others

Responsibility for our actions

Excellence in all areas of learning

Statement

GRC Peakhurst Campus **Student Welfare Policy** is based on the school community's belief that every student has the **right** to:

- Be taught in a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment
- Work in a pleasant and clean school where all students and their belongings are safe
- Be valued as an individual and be treated with respect and courtesy

Bullying or cyber bullying by any member of the school community will **not** be tolerated at GRC Peakhurst Campus.

Bullying

Deliberate 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.

Remember bullying can only be considered bullying if it is ongoing or an extended period of time.

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

Statement of Purpose

Students, teachers, parents and members of the wider school community of Georges River College Peakhurst Campus have a shared responsibility to create a safe and happy environment, free from all forms of bullying.

Students have a responsibility to behave appropriately, respecting individual differences and diversity. Students need 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 Welfare and Discipline Policy and our Anti-Bullying Plan. It is our responsibility to provide parents, staff and students with clear information regarding developed strategies that promote appropriate behaviour and the consequences for inappropriate behaviour.

Strategies to prevent 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 welfare systems that enable all students to feel safe and to feel valued.

- Peer Support Program
- Year Meetings
- Student Welfare Seminars and Presentations
- Wellbeing Team
- PBL Lessons
- Transition Programs

Strategies to deal with bullying

STUDENTS:

- do not fight back
- ignore verbal bullying and do not respond
- build your own protection by establishing 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 how bullying affects people
- contact the school if you suspect bullying

TEACHERS:

- engage in current professional learning programs on bullying
- arrange presentation workshops to provide information for the prevention of all types of bullying
- intervene if they witness or suspect a student is being bullied
- report the incident to executive or Year 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

All members of the school community need to model and promote positive relationships that respect and accept individual differences and diversity.

- Year advisors and HT Student Welfare will develop and run programs on cyber bullying through presentations, media studies and incursions each year and for every year group.

- Reinforce a playground code of behaviour, develop skills for social interaction and provide safe places for students.
- Maintain student welfare systems that enable all students to feel safe and feel valued: Peer Support, Peer Mediation, Year meetings, school counselling programs, pastoral and excursions/incursions.

Strategies to deal with cyber bullying

STUDENTS should:

- **Not respond** online to the bully
- Try to **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 should:

- 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 should:

- Set classroom limitations for laptop and Internet use
- 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 should:

- Fully investigate the incident
- Implement school procedures
- Contact parents
- Involve School Counsellor, Year Advisors

(OR)

- Contact Police

Monitoring and Evaluation

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