



Unacceptable Behaviour and Bullying

Unacceptable behaviour refers to a wide range of behaviours that are not appropriate or acceptable including harassment, discrimination and threats or acts of violence.

Bullying is when someone, or a group of people, who have more power at the time, deliberately upset or hurt another person, damage their property, reputation or social acceptance on more than one occasion. Bullying includes physical bullying, verbal bullying, indirect bullying and cyberbullying.

Types of Bullying

There are four broad types of bullying:

Direct physical bullying includes:

- hitting
- kicking
- tripping
- pinching
- pushing
- damaging property.

Direct verbal bullying includes:

- name calling
- insults
- teasing
- intimidation
- homophobic remarks
- racist remarks
- verbal abuse.

Indirect bullying is often harder to recognise and can be carried out behind the bullied person's back. It is designed to harm someone's social reputation and / or cause humiliation. Indirect bullying includes:

- lying and spreading rumours
- playing nasty jokes to embarrass and humiliate
- mimicking
- encouraging others to socially exclude someone
- damaging someone's social reputation or social acceptance.

The behaviours of a bully can be **subtle** or **explicit**. **Subtle behaviours** are the most common and include:

- offensive staring and leering
- unwanted comments about physical appearance
- unwanted sexual comments and innuendo
- racist or smutty comments or jokes
- persistent comments about a person's private life or family
- physical contact e.g. purposely brushing up against another's body
- offensive name calling.

Explicit or obvious behaviours include:

- grabbing, physically aggressive behaviour such as hitting, pinching
- unwelcome patting, touching, embracing
- offensive gestures, jokes, comments, letters, phone calls and email
- sexually and / or racially provocative remarks
- displays of sexually graphic material
- requests for sexual favours.



Cyberbullying is direct verbal or indirect bullying behaviour using digital technologies. This includes:

- the use of email, instant messages or chat rooms to humiliate and distress
- harassment via a mobile phone
- setting up a defamatory personal website
- deliberately excluding someone from social networking spaces.

The behaviours of a cyberbully include:

- teasing and making fun of others
- spreading rumours on line
- sending unwanted messages
- defamation.

Being involved in online spaces either at home or at school requires students to behave responsibly. This includes:

- the language used and the things that are said
- how others are treated
- respecting people's property (e.g. copyright)
- visiting appropriate places.

Behaving safely online means:

- protecting privacy and personal information (user and others)
- selecting appropriate spaces to work and contribute
- being proactive in letting someone know if there is something 'not quite right'. At home this should be a parent or carer, at school a teacher.

BYSTANDERS who do nothing to **STOP BULLYING** are contributing to the problem by providing an audience for the bully.

What Bullying Is Not

Many distressing behaviours are not examples of bullying even though they are unpleasant and often require teacher intervention and management.

Mutual conflict involves an argument or disagreement between people but not an imbalance of power. Both parties are upset and usually both want a resolution. Unresolved mutual conflict can develop into bullying if one of the parties targets the other repeatedly in retaliation.

Dislike is not bullying unless it involves deliberate and repeated attempts to cause distress, exclude or create dislike by others.

Single episode acts of nastiness or physical aggression are not the same as bullying. If someone is verbally abused or pushed on one occasion they are not being bullied. Nastiness or physical aggression that is directed towards many different people is not the same as bullying. However, this does not mean that single episodes of nastiness should be ignored or condoned as these are unacceptable behaviours.



At Goonawarra Primary School we aim to be proactive in our stance on bullying prevention. To this end we will:

- Educate and inform our student body through:
 - + Start to School Program which includes a close examination of school values and welfare and discipline procedures
 - Develop in ALL students a clear understanding of:
 - What bullying is
 - What bullying is not
 - Types of bullying
 - Role of bystander
 - The use of the following online resources:
 - <http://www.cyh.com/> (Kids Health – Ages 6 to 12)
 - <http://www.amf.org.au/bullying/>
 - <http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au/>
 - Our BUDDY Program (Prep and Year 6)
 - Provide programs which look into issues surrounding bullying such as Bully Busters, Bully No More .
 - Student self-reflection – time each day / week for students to reflect on how they have treated others inside and outside the classroom.
 - Provision of lunchtime activities.
 - The implementation of eSmart.
- Build awareness in our parents through:
 - Access to policy documents.
 - Provision of information sessions.

Managing Bullying:

When instances of bullying occur it is imperative that the school deals with these quickly and decisively. All staff, students and parents must be aware of the steps to follow in managing bullying if we are to deal successfully with any incidents.

1. Give student the tools to avoid / deal with episodes of bullying. For example:
 - i. Not attracting the attention of bullies (personal hygiene and care, confidence)
 - ii. Ignore (unimpressed by behaviour)
 - iii. Move away
 - iv. Say calmly and politely 'leave me alone'.
 - v. Call out loudly 'stop annoying me'.
 - vi. Ask a teacher for support.
2. Deal with incidents immediately, swiftly and unambiguously. For example:
 - i. Confidential response which minimises further harm.
 - ii. Restorative Justice conference / community conference. Interview and isolate individual students involved in an incident.
 - iii. Keep records.
3. Sanctions / consequences. For example:
 - i. Warning detention during which time student /teacher revise bullying policy. Parents of the bully and the victim to be notified of bullying incidents.
 - ii. Removal from yard for specified time.
 - iii. In school suspension.
 - iv. Suspension.