



## STUDENT ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

(This is an edited version of the complete anti-bullying policy which is available to all students, from the Guidance Officer.)

*Wavell State High School does not tolerate bullying in any form.*

### REASONS FOR THE POLICY

Everyone has a right to feel safe at school. When students are being bullied, nobody can feel safe. Bullying cannot be allowed in a school which wants everyone to be safe and happy.

### WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying involves an imbalance of power where a physically, mentally and/or emotionally stronger person exerts a form of control over another person. It can be a one off event but is often an ongoing sequence of intimidation, threats and harassment. This is the behaviour that can cause long term emotional and psychological damage and is never tolerated at school.

#### **Bullying can be:**

- **Physical:** for example hitting, pushing, tripping, spitting on, throwing things at or interfering with another's property by stealing, hiding or damaging it.
- **Verbal:** for example calling people names, threatening, teasing, spreading rumours, making fun of others achievements, saying rude things about another's race, colour, religion etc., writing offensive notes or graffiti.
- **Exclusion:** deliberately leaving people out of a group to make them feel bad.
- **Gesture:** making rude or threatening signs to someone.
- **Extortion:** Threatening someone so they will give you something or will do something for you.

#### **WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS BULLYING?**

- A student who is bullied can become stressed and angry, finds it hard to concentrate at school and may truant because they are so unhappy.
- Bullies can become aggressive and get into trouble both in and out of school.
- Students who watch others being bullied can be upset when they see them hurt and embarrassed. They may also worry that they may be bullied themselves at any time.

**Bullying is not good for anyone.**

#### **WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD DO TO PREVENT BULLYING?**

- Always respect the rights of others including the right to be different.
- Refuse to become involved in any bullying.
- If you are present when any bullying happens:
  - if it is safe, try to stop it
  - report the bullying to a teacher so that something can be done about it.
- If you are bullied do not strike out, yell at the bully or call him/her names.

**Reporting bullying is not "dobbing" or "telling tales". We all need to tell about bullying so that it is no longer secret and Wavell High School can become safe for everyone.**

