Statement of school intent for dealing with bullying behaviours

At Blackwater State High School, bullying in all its forms is not accepted and all members of Blackwater State High School accept their responsibility to promote positive relationships and to prevent bullying.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

It is important that students, staff and parents understand what bullying is, how it impacts on people and how bullying is responded to at Blackwater State High School.

At Blackwater State High School we use the following educational strategies.

Educating teachers and other staff

- Provide professional development opportunities for staff to learn about effective positive behaviour management techniques
- Provide professional development opportunities for staff to learn about bullying and its effects on students and the wider community
- Discuss as a whole staff, the effects of bullying in our school and meet a consensus on which behaviours constitute bullying.

Educating parents and families

- Schedule and conduct information sessions about bullying which will be run by the behaviour management team
- Produce and distribute a generic brochure informing families about: types of bullying behaviours; symptoms of bullying; examples of strategies to try at home for students exhibiting bullying behaviours and also those students who are the victims of bullying; website and resource details; and contact information should families request additional support or wish to discuss bullying incidences.
RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR PLAN
Bullying Prevention Strategy for students

Educating students

- Explicitly teach what constitutes bullying behaviours and their consequences within the school.
- Encourage open communications in the classroom by involving all class members in discussions about bullying.
- Integrate the use of literature and other resources to teach students about recognising and coping with different feelings, emotions, social values and situations that may involve bullying behaviours.
- Provide opportunities for students to review, discuss, dramatise and interpret via literacy activities and other media that focuses on social skill development and promotes positive values.
- Incorporate role-play situations highlighting the choices of a bully, victim and a bystander.
- Identify and promote positive behaviours within the school.

PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Effective social skill and positive relationships act to prevent bullying. At Blackwater State High School we promote effective social skills and positive relationships. We utilise the proactive programs to assist us in this goal.

- Life Skills Programs
- Chaplaincy
- Motivational Media presentations
- Arts Council presentations
- Social skill programs

RESPONSES TO BULLYING

Reports of bullying will be investigated and acted upon. Responses to bullying might include targeted support for victims and perpetrators and/or sanctions or consequences consistent with the Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students.

At Blackwater State High School we support victims and perpetrators by:

- Social skills programs for students at risk of being involved in bullying incidents
- Increased supervision of risk areas
- Providing counselling support
- Providing access to staff including principal, teachers, teacher aides, guidance officer, chaplain, specialist support staff
- Development of Individual Behaviour Plans

At Blackwater State High School the consequences for bullying might include the following:

- Warnings
- Buddied from class
- Time out at lunch times
- Detention
- Meetings with parents
- In school suspension
- Out of school suspension
- Exclusion

REPORTING AND MONITORING BULLYING

At Blackwater State High School reports of bullying are taken seriously. Students and parents may report bullying in the following ways.

- Directly to a staff member
- Directly through the Office

Reports of bullying will be collated and monitored to inform the school community about the extent of bullying and to identify particular areas of concern for future action.

RELATED LEGISLATION

- Education (General Provisions) Act 2006
- Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2006
- Anti-Discrimination Act 1991
- Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000
- Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 1997