



Preventing and Responding to Bullying Behaviour POLICY



Definition:

A person is bullied if one or more other people subject them regularly and over time to negative or harmful actions. Bullying behaviour can take the form of intimidation, exclusion or physical/emotional/social harm. Bullying behaviour can be face-to-face or via social media. Bullying is a form of harassment.

Rationale:

All members of the school community have the right –

- to be worthy of respect from others
- to learn or teach
- to feel safe and secure in the school environment

Bullying is unacceptable behaviour at TVPS.

Aims:

- The school will provide a positive culture based on the TVPS values of honesty, acceptance, responsibility and respect.
- To educate and reinforce within the school community a common understanding of what constitutes ‘bullying’ behaviour and the fact that bullying is unacceptable.
- To expect staff, students and parents to have a shared responsibility to report incidents or concerns about ‘bullying behaviour’ to a school staff member.
- To ensure that all reported incidents of bullying are followed up appropriately and that support is given to all persons involved.

Implementation:

- The school will adopt a pro-active approach focussed on PREVENTING “bullying behaviour”.
- The school will become a registered eSmart School [an initiative of the Alannah and Madeline Foundation. www.esmartschools.org.au (a work in progress with ICT Committee)
- Professional development will be provided for staff relating to student behaviour and student welfare.
- Curriculum will include Programs that promote resilience, life and social skills, assertiveness, conflict resolution and problem solving eg. *Circle Time* (F-6), *You Can Do It* (F-2), *Resilience* (Yrs 3 & 4), *Cyber Safety* (Yrs 3 – 6)
- Partners in Education [P.I.E] sessions will be offered to the school community eg. *Cyber-Safety by Susan McClean* and/or *Kate Wilde*
- At the start of each year, the grade teachers will discuss expectations of student behaviour based on the TVPS values and classroom norms.
- Forums eg. Junior School Council, and Programs eg Big Friends Little Friends, will promote and support positive student behaviour
- Playtime options - eg. TVPS Library activities & Sustainability Garden and User-Pay Programs in Chess, Dance, Tennis – provide students with opportunities to feel involved and supported

References:

www.curriculum.edu.au/mindmatters

Circular 41/2002 VicHealth Publicity for Partnership Campaign Together We Do Better: Department Participation

www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/bullying/index.htm

- Information related to student safety and connectedness from the annual DEECD the Student Opinion Survey (Yrs 5 & 6) will be analysed and discussed with students
- Assemblies (Level and School) will promote and acknowledge positive student behaviour
- Reports of “bullying behaviour” will be investigated and documented. Support will be provided for all students involved.
- The parents of students involved in “bullying” will be contacted. Consequences and support, consistent with the TVPS *Student Code of Conduct*, will be implemented.
- **Consequences** will be individually based and may involve:-
 - exclusion from class
 - exclusion from playground
 - withdrawal of privileges
 - school suspension
 - ongoing counselling from appropriate agency for both victim and bully.
- Supporting links for parents –
 - TVPS [Policy for Safe Use of Internet and Digital Technologies](#)
 - DET – [Bully Stoppers: Make a Stand. Lend a Hand](#)
 - DET – www.bullyingnoway.com.au

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed with staff, student and parent input as part of the school’s three-year Review Cycle.

This policy was reviewed by School Council in July 2016