

Student anti-bullying policy

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a safe, inclusive, respectful, and supportive learning environment for all students.

This Policy applies to:

- Aspect students;
- Aspect staff, contractors, volunteers, and visitors to the extent that their interactions involve students;
- All Aspect sites.

Students have the right to feel safe and maintain physical, mental and psychological wellbeing in schools. Therefore, bullying or harassment in Aspect schools is not tolerated in any form. Aspect is committed to ensuring a safe and supportive environment for students which promotes personal growth and fosters safety and positive self-esteem for all.

This Policy and supporting procedures are applied with consideration to each individual student's disability and how this may impact their capacity to meet expectations of the school context. Factors that must be considered include cognitive functioning, communication needs, difficulty problem solving, reading social and emotional cues and sensory needs.

Identification of bullying and how it will be addressed

Staff must seek to identify bullying behaviours, including those expressed through communication or behavioural differences, and work with involved parties to offer a safe, timely response in line with current procedures.

When behaviour puts any stakeholder's safety or wellbeing at risk, the school will implement appropriate measures to safeguard all parties involved. These measures will prioritise safety, de-escalation, understanding and the preservation of each person's dignity.

Students, parents and caregivers are to be encouraged to report bullying, harassment and violence so that appropriate supports can be put in place for involved parties.

Aspect schools will seek to inform the school community about methods of skill building, inclusion, positivity and conflict management with consideration of specific support needs of individuals and the broader school community.

Breach and consequences

Non-compliance with this Policy could result in Aspect breaching legislation or regulations, and could result in financial penalties, reputational risk and/or other impacts on Aspect's operations which may impact delivery of Aspect services.

Definitions

Term	Definition
Bullying	The repeated oppression (psychological or physical) of a less powerful person by a more powerful person or groups of persons. Bullying behaviours may include: • repeated physical actions: hitting, kicking, pushing, shoving, property damage, things thrown to inflict hurt, inappropriate touching, intimidation; • repeated verbal actions: verbal intimidation, jokes, comments about looks, ridicule, rude remarks, gossip, hate speech, racist comments; • exclusion actions – isolation by peers, ignoring, exclusion from school activities, exclusion from groups/teams; and/or, • manipulation of social relations – manipulation of friends, asking others to exclude, turning friends against each other. Behaviours that are not classified as bullying include: • mutual conflict or a disagreement that does not involve a power imbalance; • one-off acts of nastiness or physical aggression; • aggression directed towards many different people at one time; • social rejection or dislike that does not involve deliberate and repeated attempts to cause distress, exclude or create dislike by others.
Cyberbullying	Any form of bullying behaviour that occurs online or via a mobile device. Cyberbullying behaviours may include: • sending abusive text messages or emails • posting hurtful or threatening material on social media • imitating or excluding others online • inappropriate comments on others' posts or on pictures of others • threatening someone to do something – such as sending revealing images – that is inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable

Related documents

This Policy upholds the standards of the:

- New South Wales Education Act 1990 (NSW) Anti-Bullying Framework outlining prevention, response, partnering and implementation to create a whole school consistent response (implementation January 2027)
- South Australian Bullying Prevention Policy and Plan to prevent, report, intervene, support, monitor and follow up
- South Australia Education and Children's Services Act 2019 (SA)

