Bullying and Harassment Policy

At Albany Creek State High School, we have an expectation that everyone will be treated with respect. Everyone should feel safe and valued at our school and it’s everyone’s responsibility to ensure that this happens.

Albany Creek State high School encourages this through our values of:
RESPECT
RELIABILITY
RESPONSIBILITY
RESILIENCE

We consider that these values are important for us to have a caring school community. When we feel embarrassed, frightened, humiliated or uncomfortable, as a result of someone’s deliberately hurtful actions or words, it affects our self-confidence. If it persists we find it hard to concentrate on our work, to enjoy going to school and to keep good relationships with others.

WHAT IS BULLYING AND HARASSMENT?

Bullying and harassment occur when any behaviour which hurts, threatens or frightens a person takes place. It may embarrass you or make you feel uncomfortable. It can be expressed physically, verbally or through social behaviour. Some bullying and harassment are unlawful. ALL bullying and harassment are unacceptable.

WHEN A PERSON:

is hit, punched, kicked, jostled or pushed around
is called hurtful, abusive or offensive names
is threatened
is sexually harassed; making sexual comments, gestures about a persons body size or shape
is a victim of abusive or obscene language
is included in offensive pictures, posters or jokes
is ridiculed about their appearance and abilities
is ridiculed about their culture, religion or social background
is teased repeatedly in a nasty manner
is singled out for unfair treatment
has rumours spread about them
is pressured to do something against their will
has their property interfered with; stealing, damaging, hiding or destroying it
has repeated offensive gestures including exposure or gestures of a sexual nature made to them
has someone pestering them to go out with them or to engage in sexual activities
has someone invading their personal space; brushing up against them deliberately
has graffiti written about them
is deliberately excluded
has hurtful comments made about other family members

Then they are being bullied and harassed!
EVERYONE HAS RIGHTS

Everyone has the right to:
◆ feel safe and comfortable at school
◆ to travel to and from school feeling safe
◆ learn and no-one has the right to stop others from their learning

WHAT CAN YOU DO

◆ Show that it doesn’t upset you. The bully is then not encouraged and may stop.
◆ Avoid situations where bullying and harassment may occur. With a friend, confront the person bullying or harassing you. Tell them that the actions are unwanted or illegal. Remind them that the school has a policy against bullying and harassment.
◆ Talk it over openly with your friends, parents and colleagues. They can help you make a decision and support you.
◆ Report the matter to a Teacher, Year Level Coordinator, Chaplain, Guidance Counsellor. It is important that you allow them to take action to stop the bullying or harassment.

Don’t ignore bullying and harassment - Reporting is not ‘Dobbing’, remember:
DOB – Don’t Obey a Bully!

CONSEQUENCES

Albany Creek State High School will deal seriously with those students who retaliate against a person for reporting bullying and harassment. All Incidents will be dealt with. Consequences of bullying and harassment will include counselling and contact with parents. Bullying and harassment may result in suspensions and exclusions if it is not addressed.

Bullying and harassment are not tolerated at Albany Creek State High School. Everyone has a responsibility to stop a bully from bullying.

CYBER BULLYING AND HARASSMENT - WHAT IS IT

Cyber bullying or harassment is bullying using technology; when a person is hurt, threatened, intimidated and/or humiliated by another person who:

texts derogatory or threatening messages on a mobile phone;
sends derogatory or threatening emails to the person and/or a wider audience;
creates a derogatory or threatening website, often using photographs taken with a mobile phone;
uses chat rooms/utube/myspace etc. to abuse a person;
employs other uses of technology to bully.
HOW IS CYBER BULLYING THE SAME AS FACE-TO-FACE BULLYING?

Cyber bullying is the same as face to face bullying because such actions:

◆ are deliberate and designed to hurt, threaten, intimidate or humiliate;
involve an imbalance of power;
are often repeated;
leave the victim feeling defenceless and vulnerable.

HOW IS CYBER BULLYING DIFFERENT TO FACE-TO-FACE BULLYING?

Cyber bullying is different to face-to-face bullying because such actions are verbal and psychological bullying

◆ are deliberate and usually intended to hurt, threaten, intimidate or humiliate;
  often reach to a much wider audience;
  are written and so have a greater impact;
  can occur and be accessed 24 hours a day and 7 days a week;
  can be stored and have transmission point anywhere;
  can be anonymous;
  are less detected by adults and have greater long term effect.

ORIGIN SITE OF THE CYBER BULLYING

Cyber bullying could be transmitted from both inside and outside the school.

Outside - on mobile phones and/or using the internet.
Inside- on mobile phones and/or on school internet.

The illegal use of equipment in the school will be responded to according to the Bullying and Harassment and Computer Use policies.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

◆ If the bullying is by text message generated within the school, treat it the same way as face-to-face bullying: by speaking to a teacher, Year Level Coordinator, Chaplain, Guidance Counsellor or Deputy Principal. The message will be copied and deleted. It is important to allow this to be dealt with in order to stop the bullying.
◆ If the bullying originates on the intranet, show the screen to your teacher. This is an illegal use of school IT resources and will be dealt with according to the Bullying and Harassment and Computer Use Agreement.
◆ If the bullying occurs outside the school, you should:
  • speak to your parents about this;
  • retain mobile phone text messages, emails, the addresses of websites etc.;
  • change your mobile phone number/email address;
  • tell no-one (or only those who must know) your mobile phone number or email address;
  • contact the police.
◆ Be aware that bullying using telephones or computers is an illegal use of equipment and can be prosecuted under the Telecommunications and Broadcasting Acts.
◆ Taking a photo without knowledge is illegal under the Privacy Act (State). Using the photograph without permission on a website is illegal under Federal Law. These matters may be referred to the police.