

What can parents and caregivers do about bullying?

Encourage positive behaviour and discourage negative behaviour both at home and at school.

Encourage children to solve difficulties without resorting to aggression.

Encourage children to share, to be kind, to be caring, and to be understanding towards others.

Watch out for signs and symptoms that your child is being bullied or is bullying others.

Don't dismiss your instincts as being wrong.

Discuss the school's anti-bullying policy with her/him.

Support the school in its efforts to prevent and treat bullying.



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Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development



Anti – Bullying Policy

This policy is based on the DECD guidelines and aims to produce a safe and caring environment in which all pupils can develop to their full potential.

All students at Errington Special Education Centre have an intellectual disability. Some students also have additional impairments such as vision impairment, hearing impairment, autism and high support needs. Currently the school has a very high proportion of students with autism.

The school does not tolerate or condone bullying of any form or at any level of the school community. Every effort will be made to educate our cohort of pupils as to the rights and responsibilities of all members of our community to feel safe and respected at all times. We recognize that understanding the concept of bullying may be difficult for some of our pupils. The school community is however committed to ensuring that all members of the school community - pupils, staff, and parents are enabled to act effectively to deal with bullying. This policy guides action and organisation within the school for preventing and responding to bullying.

Creating a Positive School Climate

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What is Bullying ?

At Errington Special Education Centre bullying may be defined as repeated acts of aggression aimed at gaining a specific and intentional negative outcome for the victim.

Bullying may take many different forms such as physical aggression, damage to property, theft of property, extortion, intimidation, abusive telephone calls, isolation, name calling, writing notes, emailing or texting. As a form of aggressive behaviour it is usually deliberately hurtful. It is persistent over time and makes it difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

It is important not to confuse bullying with isolated incidents of aggressive or antisocial behaviour, which while never condoned may arise as a result of the student's disability. When the behaviour is systematic and ongoing it becomes bullying.

All members of the school community have a role to play in the prevention of bullying.

How are we reducing bullying.

School Council

The School Council and leadership team are responsible for ensuring that all members of the school community are enabled to deal effectively with bullying. They are committed to providing time and resources for the implementation of the policy and ensure that proper supervisory and monitoring measures are in place to prevent bullying and to deal with incidents appropriately as they arise.

School Staff

The school staff will foster an atmosphere of friendship, respect and tolerance. Students self-esteem will be developed through celebrating individual differences, achievements, acknowledging and rewarding good behaviour and manners and providing opportunities for success throughout the curriculum and school. Teachers will help students to develop empathy by discussing feelings and trying to put themselves in the place of others to foster empathy. Relationships with students will be based on mutual respect and trust so that students will have confidence in the school staff. Teachers will be vigilant, respond sensitively and caringly to pupils who disclose incidents of bullying. and will investigate all such reports.

Teachers will discuss the school's anti-bullying policy with the pupils and use behaviour management strategies with a focus on problem solving and enable pupils to take an active role in finding appropriate solutions to problems. The formal curriculum of the school will also be used to educate all students against bullying behaviour.

Students

Students are expected to develop tolerance and to demonstrate mutual respect for each other. They should report incidents of bullying to their teachers and support staff.

What will we do if bullying occurs.

- Comfort, reassure and listen to student.
- Encourage students involved to **disclose and discuss** incidents of bullying and how they are affected.
- Carefully monitor students at all times, especially on excursions, classrooms, toilets, change rooms, sensory and playground areas to prevent any negative behaviour.
- As self esteem is one of the most influential factors determining bullying behaviour, teachers provide students with the opportunity to develop positive self worth in an endeavour to change behaviour patterns.
- Classroom teachers develop strong relationships with students, parents and caregivers to foster trust and confidence, enabling strategies in all settings to be put in place to prevent behaviour re-occurring.
- Provide support, strategies and programs for students to help them better manage times of frustration, anger or sensory overload.
- Staff will take positive steps to ensure all students feel safe at all times.