



Morphett Vale Primary School

Lawrence Street, Morphett Vale SA 5162

Phone: 8186 5064

Morphett Vale Primary School – Bullying Prevention Policy and Plan

Rationale

Morphett Vale Primary School (MVPS) is a collaborative community where every member is encouraged and supported to enact the values of **Respectful, Resilient, Empathetic and Resourceful**. We are committed to providing a safe, inclusive environment where all staff and students are valued, supported, and protected from harm.

At MVPS, we treat bullying, including harassment, cyberbullying, violence, and discrimination, as serious matters. This policy defines bullying as intentional, repeated behaviour that aims to cause harm. Isolated incidents are managed individually according to our Behaviour Support Policy.

National Definition of Bullying

Bullying is the **ongoing and deliberate misuse of power** in relationships through repeated verbal, physical, and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social, or psychological harm. Bullying can be carried out by individuals or groups, in person or online, and it can be overt or covert.

Single incidents or conflict between equals do not meet the definition of bullying. All incidents will be managed with the goal of restoring positive relationships.

Types of Bullying

- **Verbal:** Insults, threats, name-calling, spreading rumours, and verbal teasing.
- **Physical:** Hitting, pushing, kicking, spitting, and damaging property.
- **Social/Emotional:** Exclusion, spreading false information, unkind body language, and humiliating jokes.
- **Cyberbullying:** Using online platforms, email, or messages to harass, threaten, or humiliate others.

Harassment, Violence, and Discrimination

These behaviours can overlap with bullying but are also treated independently:

- **Harassment** targets individuals or groups based on identity, race, gender, or other attributes, creating a hostile environment.

- **Violence** involves the intentional use of force that causes psychological or physical harm.
- **Discrimination** occurs when individuals are treated unfairly due to personal characteristics, leading to exclusion or rejection.

Responding to Incidents of Bullying

At MVPS, our focus is on respect, responsibility, and developing resilience. We aim to restore positive relationships and teach appropriate social behaviours. **Responses will be age-appropriate** and involve communication with both parties and their caregivers. All students are explicitly taught that;

If you are being bullied:

- Use a strong, confident voice to be assertive.
- Avoid places where bullying occurs and seek help from a friend or trusted adult.
- Walk away without reacting.

If you are a bystander:

- Encourage the victim to report the bullying.
- Tell the person bullying to stop.
- Offer support to the victim and invite them to join your group.
- Remind the victim that bullying behaviour is not acceptable.

If you are using bullying behaviours:

- Listen to others when they ask you to stop.
- Consider how others may be feeling.
- Reflect honestly about what has happened.
- Participate actively in restorative conversations, reteach opportunities and other supports that are put in place (e.g. Check In Check Out).

Parent and Caregiver Support

Parents and caregivers play a vital role in preventing and managing bullying.

Strategies to support your child:

- Listen calmly and gather the full story.
- If your child was the victim, reassure your child they are not to blame.
- If your child was the bully, reassure them that they can learn from their mistakes and make better

choices next time.

- Help your child determine a plan and avoid responding to or participating in online bullying.
- Stay in touch with the school and follow up regularly.
- Teach and support your child to build positive relationship skills.

Teacher Responsibilities

- Develop positive relationships and communicate openly with students.
- Use **Restorative Practices** to address incidents and rebuild relationships.
- Engage in Restorative Circles and Social-Emotional Learning activities to prevent bullying.
- Reinforce the **Child Protection Curriculum** and provide students with tools to manage bullying and cyberbullying.
- Use agreed (**Bullying No Way** , PBL and other relevant) site-wide resources to teach and promote positive behaviour.
- Follow through with consequences and keep parents informed.

Leadership Responsibilities

- **Respond promptly** to bullying incidents and maintain records.
- Follow through with consequences and keep parents informed.
- Collaborate with parents, caregivers, and external agencies to raise awareness.
- Provide professional development for staff to build capacity in managing bullying.
- Take action even for behaviours occurring outside of school hours if they affect school relationships.
- Use **Restorative Practices** to address incidents and rebuild relationships.

Resources and Support

- **Kids Helpline:** 1800 551 800
- **eSafety Commissioner:** www.esafety.gov.au
- **Bullying No Way:** www.bullyingnoway.gov.au
- **Parent Help Line:** 1300 364 100

Reporting and Resolving Bullying Incidents

Incidents of bullying can be reported to:

- **Classroom Teacher (in the first instance)**
- **Principal or Deputy Principal**
- **Student Wellbeing Leader**
- **Pastoral Care Worker**
- **OSHC (Out of School Hours Care)**

Reports will be handled promptly, and appropriate actions will be taken to restore a safe learning environment. For serious incidents, MVPS will refer matters to **South Australian Police (SAPOL)**.

Definitions

- **Bullying:** Deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated harmful behaviours.
- **Cyberbullying:** Online bullying through social media, messaging, or other digital platforms.
- **Harassment:** Behaviour that intimidates or creates a hostile environment.
- **Discrimination:** Unfair treatment based on identity, race, gender, or other characteristics.
- **Violence:** Intentional physical harm or the use of power to injure others.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed by **31 December 2027** to ensure it remains aligned with current best practices and departmental guidelines.

Contact Information

Morphett Vale Primary School

Address: Lawrence Street, Morphett Vale SA 5162

Phone: (08) 81865064

Email: dl.1908_info@schools.sa.edu.au

Website: www.morphettvaleps.sa.edu.au

This policy is part of our commitment to providing a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment where every student can thrive.