



HANDS OFF PROTECTION POLICY INCLUDING CYBERSAFETY

Hands Off Protection Policy

At Tullawong State High School policies and programs that deal successfully with bullying and harassment are based on a whole school approach. The Tullawong High School community has developed a school culture that supports effective student management policies and procedures. We also promote a positive learning environment that encourages diversity and empowers students to reach their full potential in their educational and personal development.

No Tolerance Approach

Tullawong State High School does not tolerate bullying. Bullying is an abuse of power to threaten or harm another person. Bullying can be defined as unprovoked aggressive or hurtful behaviour, deliberately inflicted on someone repeatedly or in a 'one off' incident, where those being bullied find it difficult to defend themselves. Examples of these types of bullying behaviours are:

- Physical: shoving, hitting, kicking, damaging or taking belongings
- Mental: name calling, teasing, insulting or racist remarks
- Relational: spreading rumours, being excluded from groups, offensive gestures
- Sexual: inappropriate sexual touches or comments, being made to look at parts of bodies or pictures you don't want to look at
- Cyberbullying

A message about cyber-safety

The safety of our students is paramount and this responsibility includes management of cyber-safety and cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is when technology, such as email, mobile phones, chat rooms and social networking sites, are used to verbally or socially bully another person. This includes sending or posting abusive, threatening, humiliating or harassing messages.

Our school is committed to addressing cyberbullying. The Department of Education and Training protects students from inappropriate websites through special filtering software, blocking sites such as Facebook and YouTube. When used safely, these sites offer opportunities to learn and communicate, however when used inappropriately they can become hurtful and dangerous places.

If students use websites inappropriately outside of school hours the school can, in certain circumstances, take disciplinary action as detailed in our *Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students*, with serious matters referred to police.

A recommended approach is for parents and carers to discuss cyberbullying with their child and highlight the importance of appropriate online behaviour. If your child is of a suitable age to be connected to any social networking site, reviewing their 'friends list' may help you manage their safety and reduce the risk of them associating with inappropriate contacts. Please remember, as a parent or caregiver you play an important role in helping your children have safe and positive experiences online.

To assist you, provided below are websites containing advice and resources:

<http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/>

<http://www.kidshelp.com.au/>

<http://www.cyberbullying.org.nz/>

The department also has cybersafety information available on its website at:

<http://education.qld.gov.au/student-services/behaviour/qsav/cybersafety.html>

Report It!

Tullawong State High School staff deal with bullying incidents. Statements identifying incidents of bullying can be given to House Leaders and Guidance Officers to ensure appropriate action can be taken. House Leaders and Guidance Officers can provide support in the areas of:

- Assertiveness Training
- Conflict Resolution
- Anti-Bullying Strategies

Other student Support Staff includes the Chaplain and the Youth Health Nurse.

Investigations into reports of bullying will be conducted and appropriate action will be undertaken in accordance with Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students. In cases where it is identified that the bullying behaviour requires a disciplinary response, the issue will be managed by a Deputy Principal or House Leader. Please note that merely telling a staff member is not enough. A written statement is required for specific action to be taken. In cases where a student requires help in writing their statement support can also be provided.

At Tullawong State High School, students are offered an immediate opportunity to discuss incidents and provide a written statement of events. Both bullies and victims are given the opportunity to gain skills that will empower them to overcome the negative cycle of bullying. Parents and Carers are encouraged, where necessary, to support the school in maintaining a safe school environment.

In cases where students fail to modify inappropriate behaviour or where the incident is serious, the school may undertake disciplinary action as follows:

- Official warning to modify behaviour
- Detention
- Suspension
- Exclusion

Bullying and Harassment are serious social issues. At Tullawong State High School we are committed to educating and supporting all students. Bullies and victims will both receive supportive action. With appropriate skilling, all students are given the opportunity to participate in the development of a positive learning environment.

All students have a right to feel safe in their school environment. In providing a safe and supportive environment students at Tullawong State High School can actively engage in their learning.