

ANTI-BULLYING PLAN 2023

Blaxland High School

Bullying behaviour has three key features. It involves the intentional misuse of power in a relationship. It is ongoing and repeated, and it involves behaviours that can cause harm. The NSW Department of Education requires all NSW public schools to have an Anti-bullying Plan which details the strategies implemented to reduce student bullying behaviours.

Resources

The NSW anti-bullying website (see: <https://antibullying.nsw.gov.au/>) provides evidence-based resources and information for schools, parents and carers, and students. Schools are encouraged to visit the website to support whole-school prevention, early intervention and response approaches and strategies for student bullying behaviour.

Blaxland High School's commitment

Our school rejects all forms of bullying behaviours, including online (or cyber) bullying by maintaining a commitment to providing a safe, inclusive and respectful learning community that promotes student wellbeing. Executive staff are committed to establishing evidence-based approaches and strategies that promote a positive climate where bullying is less likely to occur.

1 School culture and inclusion

All members of the school community are active participants in building a welcoming school culture that values diversity and fosters positive relationships. A key component of a supportive school culture is building respectful relationships and an ethos that bullying is not accepted, in both online and offline environments. School staff will actively respond to student bullying behaviour.

Our school engages in the following practices to promote a positive school culture.

1.1 Student assemblies

Student bullying and expectations about student behaviour will be discussed and information presented to promote a positive school culture where bullying is not accepted.

Dates	Communication topics
Term 1	Expectations regarding mutual respect, tolerance and cooperation are discussed, along with the behaviour code and Merit Award system.
Term 2	Promotion of up-stander behaviours and positive relationships Project Rockit Year 9
Term 3	Promotion of Positive Behaviour for Learning and Merit Award system.
Term 4	Celebrating the success of the year. Promotion of wellbeing programs at school and through external providers such as MYST

1.2 Staff communication and professional learning

Staff will be supported with professional learning that provides evidence-based ways to encourage and teach positive social and emotional wellbeing and discourage, prevent, identify, and respond effectively to student bullying behaviour.

Dates	Communication topics and Professional learning
Term 1	Whole staff meetings: clear expectations set around positive behaviour and school policies and procedures. Promotion of and attendance at IDAHOBIT events-
Term 2	All staff trained in Supporting our Students Mental Health (Dept training)
Ongoing	Teaching programs incorporate social emotional learning competencies
Ongoing	Fortnightly Wellbeing team and Learning Support team meetings: minutes available to all staff.

1.3 New and casual staff

New and casual staff will be informed about our school's approaches and strategies to prevent and respond to student bullying behaviour in the following ways.

- All new staff complete induction and receive support from Head Teacher Mentor.
- All staff, including casual relief staff, have access to Sentral in order to view student plans.
- Faculties provide support as needed for new and casual staff in order for them to become familiar with processes.

2 Partnerships with families and community

Effective schools have high levels of parental and community involvement. This involvement is strongly related to improved student learning, attendance and behaviour. Our school proactively builds collaborative relationships with families and communities to create a shared understanding of how to support student learning, safety and wellbeing.

2.1 Website

Our school website has information to support families help their children to regulate their emotions and behaviour and develop socially. Information is provided to assist if children have been involved in bullying behaviour (as the person engaging in bullying behaviour, as the person being bullied or as the person witnessing the bullying behaviour).

The following are published on our school's website. Check the boxes that apply.



School Anti-bullying Plan



NSW Anti-bullying website



Behaviour Code for Students

2.2 Communication with parents

Our school will provide information to parents to help promote a positive school culture where bullying is not acceptable and to increase parent's understanding of how our school addresses all forms of bullying behaviour.

Dates	Communication methods and topic
Ongoing	School website/Facebook/SchoolBytes provides parents with access to information on social emotional skills and support providers
Ongoing	Provision of information for parents from organisations, such as Headspace, Relationships Australia, Mountains Youth Services Team (MYST) etc. on social-emotional learning and parent information sessions.
Ongoing	Regular P&C meetings allow communication between the school and the parent/carer community.
Ongoing	School community are invited to attend guest speaker presentations

3 Support for wellbeing and positive behaviours

Our school's practices support student wellbeing and positive behaviour approaches that align with our school community's needs.

Social and emotional skills related to personal safety, resilience, help-seeking and protective behaviours are explicitly taught across the curriculum in Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE).

Examples of other ways our school will embed student wellbeing and positive behaviour approaches and strategies in practices include the following.

- Provision of targeted student programs e.g. Teen Mental Health First Aid, Love Bites, RAGE, STEPS, Reach, Enlighten Education, Project Rockit, Batyr.
- Social emotional competencies are developed within each key learning area
- Wellbeing plans are collaboratively completed and disseminated to class teachers/stakeholders
- Case management of individual students by the learning support and/or wellbeing teams
- Leadership opportunities e.g. academic, sporting, creative and performing arts etc.
- Whole school promotion of events, such as, 'Bullying, No Way!', RUOK Day, Harmony Day, IDAHOBIT, Wear it Purple etc.
- Year meetings spotlight pro-social behaviours
- Specific events and programs that promote positive peer relationships e.g., camps, peer support, peer mediation, focus groups
- Provide explicit learning opportunities within curriculum areas to develop personal and social capabilities
- Student Support Officer available to support young people through proactive interventions
- BHS continues to work with a range of external stakeholders to ensure students have access to a range of programs and counselling services (eg. MYST, Headspace)

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