



FOOTSCRAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Anti-Bullying Essential Agreement



Rationale:

Footscray Primary School does not tolerate violence or bullying.

Defining Bullying:

Bullying occurs when one or more people deliberately upsets or hurts another person, their property, reputation or social acceptance, and this action is repeated over time.

Bullying can take many forms:

- direct physical bullying involves behaviour such as hitting, tripping, and pushing or damaging property
- direct verbal bullying is behaviour such as name-calling, insults, homophobic or racist remarks
- Indirect bullying is harder to recognise and often takes place 'behind someone's back'. this type of bullying is designed to damage a person's reputation or cause humiliation
- Cyber bullying involves the use of email, text messages or internet chat rooms to humiliate and distress someone.

There are also many distressing behaviours that are not regarded as bullying even though they are unpleasant and often require teacher intervention and management.

Examples of situations that are often confused with bullying include:

- mutual conflict (conflict where both parties are responsible)
- social rejection or dislike
- single-episode acts of nastiness or meanness
- random acts of aggression and intimidation.

(<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/childhealth/bullying.htm>)

Purpose:

To use a whole school community approach to behaviour management. To create a safe and healthy environment and to develop and reinforce appropriate behaviour. To incorporate practical strategies for behaviour management whilst recognizing the differences in personal teaching styles, educational rights and needs of individual students.

Our school believes that all members of the school community have a right to be:

- Treated with dignity and justice;
- Safe and secure;
- Free to be involved in the teaching and learning process unhindered by anti-social behaviour;
- Aware of the procedures that will be followed in managing inappropriate behaviour;
- Assured that teachers will be fair and consistent in matters of discipline;
- Made aware of the consequences of their actions.

Objective:

To provide a safe learning environment.

To empower students with the knowledge and skills to create a safe learning environment

Content

At Footscray Primary School we actively promote this Essential Agreement by:

- Creating or refining classroom Essential Agreements at the beginning of each school year. We do this to ensure all members of our classroom understand our expectations that our classroom environment is safe and engaging. We revisit our essential agreements to maintain this environment,
- Implementing strategies such as 'naming it' to empower all students to build a culture of well being.
- Incorporating learning experiences as part of our classroom culture, we ensure students have a way of building a positive learning environment and support their learning and social and emotional wellbeing.
- Providing appropriate professional learning to ensure that all staff can utilise these strategies.
- Using a whole school approach to manage unwanted behaviours inside and outside the classroom so students are aware of the consequences that follow unacceptable behaviour.
- Using our school approaches to behaviour management alongside the procedures outlined in the DEECD Student Engagement policy.