



Anti-Bullying Statement

Glenaeon School recognises that every individual has both rights and responsibilities.

Everyone has the right to be treated with understanding, courtesy and kindness, to feel safe and secure at school, and to work in a positive environment that promotes learning and recognises achievement. Everyone also has the responsibility to treat others in a respectful and caring way, never threatening or harming a fellow student, teacher or other member of the community.

Glenaeon School is committed to encouraging the growth of positive relationships, to providing a safe and caring environment, to educating students about issues related to bullying, and to identifying and dealing with bullying behaviour.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is the repeated abuse of power of one person over another person. It may include:

- Verbal harassment – e.g. swearing, name-calling, threatening, repeated episodes of teasing, references to a person's appearance, racial or social background, spreading rumours
- Physical harm - e.g. hitting, punching, spitting, pushing, hair-pulling
- Psychological non-verbal harassment
 - e.g. exclusion, offensive body language, hurtful gossip, insulting notes, stealing or damaging personal belongings
- Sexual harassment – e.g. behaviour that is construed as unwelcome, use of words or actions of a sexual nature
- Cyber bullying, sexting, engaging in identity theft or by trashing someone on social networking sites

Bullying is a serious issue

Glenaeon School does **not tolerate bullying**. Bullying can lead to emotional and/or physical pain and stress for the victim of bullying. If we remain passive onlookers we can unintentionally encourage bullying behaviour. Any student who is a witness or victim of bullying must not remain silent, but must report it to a member of staff.

What can I do if I am a witness to bullying?

You should care enough to want to do something:

- Tell the bully to 'leave him/her alone'
- Report the incident to a staff member as soon as you can. You may request that your report be anonymous
- Offer support to the victim, perhaps make helpful suggestions about handling the situation next time
- Suggest seeking help from an adult

What can I do if I feel I am being bullied?

Recognise that you can take positive action.

Often bullies seek a reaction. Here are some ideas:

- Be assertive, you have rights. State 'leave me alone'
- Do not retaliate
- Ignore it, show you are not upset
- Walk away
- Laugh it off, use humour
- Establish your own friends
- Avoid high risk places and times
- Talk about it with people who can help
 - e.g. your Guardian, a teacher, your Coordinator



School procedure for dealing with bullying behaviours

The diagram over the page shows the steps to be taken when bullying behaviour occurs. Should the behaviour continue, consequences may include:

- Time out from class, playground, bus or wherever incident has occurred
- Referral to Coordinators
- Consultation with parents
- A formal warning in writing to student and parent
- Reparations for damage caused, formal apologies
- Detentions
- Community service
- File of behaviour in student record
- Suspension from school, resuming only with a clear undertaking that he/she will demonstrate a change in attitude/behaviour on returning
- Expulsion

Online Resources

www.esafety.gov.au/

www.kidshelpline.com.au/parents/tips/dealing-with-school-related-bullying/

Parents – You can help!

Positive parental support and influence is vital.

You are the most influential models in your child's life.

Build a welcoming and inclusive home environment

Encourage your child to bring friends home. Acknowledge and accept differences in others

Practise good communication

Show interest in your child's day, and discuss issues openly. Encourage your child to seek help from the teachers if there are problems.

Try not to blame or defend

Staying calm and objective usually enables the truth to be found out more easily. Encouraging positive attitudes helps build self-confidence.

Be observant. Look out for tell-tale signs such as:

- Unwillingness to attend school
- Declining academic performance
- Loss of interest in sporting or social events
- Loss of possessions/money
- Asking for or stealing money
- Unexplained injuries
- Change in eating or sleeping patterns
- Refusal to say what the problem is

Sometimes a child might be reluctant to talk because he/she might be worried parents will interfere and make matters worse. It is important to maintain trust by respecting your child's own judgements.

Policy for dealing with bullying behaviours

