



The Code of School Behaviour

Better Behaviour
Better Learning

Moura State High School

Bully Prevention Strategy

To be read in conjunction with Responsible Behaviour Plan for students.

Rationale

State schools in Queensland are committed to providing quality learning opportunities that enable all students to achieve within safe, supportive and disciplined learning environments.

Moura State High School has the agreed key values of Safety, Respect, Responsibility and Effort as a platform for our safe and supportive learning environment.

School community beliefs about bullying

“Bullying is deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.”

Bullying is an abuse of power perpetrated by a more powerful person or group of persons over a less powerful person or group of persons.

“Bullying can be physical or non physical (psychological) and might include;

1. Direct physical threats or assaults
2. Social exclusion of one by another or a group
3. Verbal insults or spreading rumours
4. Sending of threatening or demeaning messages by SMS, Email, Internet
5. Non verbal signals ”

“At Moura State High School bullying in all its forms is not accepted and all members of school community must accept their responsibility to promote positive relationships and to prevent bullying”.

Moura State High School practices a “zero tolerance” approach to harassment and intimidation (bullying) in all its forms in line with Education Queensland’s Student Protection Policy. Our school and school community endorses each teacher’s right to teach, each student’s right to learn and the right of all school community members to safety and respect.

Bullying undermines such values and prevents students from achieving their full potential in the educational and social setting. Bullying effects *all* members of the school community and we are committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all. For these reasons bullying cannot be tolerated and must be addressed with immediacy and consistency.

Educational Programs

It is important that students staff and parents understand what bullying is, how it impacts on people and how bullying is responded to at Moura State High School. At Moura State High School we use the following educational strategies.

Deliberate educational programs to:

- counter views that bullying is a natural or inevitable part of school life.



The Code of School Behaviour

Better Behaviour
Better Learning

- combat and overcome barriers of secrecy that often surround bullying.
- create a supportive, caring and safe environment for students, staff and others.
- provide support and counselling services for bully, victim and others involved in an incident.
- move beyond a reactive response to bullying by proactively promoting a school climate where bullying behaviours are not tolerated and are infrequent in incidence.

Educational Actions and Programs include:

- Upon enrolment all students will be made aware of the school's Anti-Bullying Policy.
- Education of all year levels will occur through the year level co-ordinators and care group teachers within the context of the curriculum, in Life Skills classes and during whole-of-school assemblies.
- Where possible parents/caregivers will be included in the education process and informed of developments in relation to anti-bullying measures.
- All teaching staff will undertake regular professional development in regard to bullying issues and their professional responsibilities in combating bullying.
- Use of specialist staff like the Guidance Officer, Behaviour teacher and Chaplain as well as outside targeted programs

Prevention Programs

Effective social skill and positive relationships act to prevent bullying. At Moura State High School we promote effective social skills and positive relationships by programs aimed to promote pro social behaviour within the school. For example

- You Can Do It Program
- Rock on Water

All members of the school community have responsibilities to be proactive in preventing bullying. This could include:

STAFF –

- Watch for early warning signs of bullying in students (eg excessive stress, changes in behaviour, physical injuries etc.)
- Use all students as a positive resource in countering bullying by taking time to discuss bullying in class sessions when needed.



The Code of School Behaviour

Better Behaviour
Better Learning

- Ensure all areas of the school are monitored at breaks and in between lessons. Be vigilant on playground duty.

PARENTS/CAREGIVERS –

- Watch for early warning signs in your child. These may include a reluctance to go to school, truancy, unexplained illnesses, missing possessions, asking for money, frequent or unexplained injuries, moodiness or lack concentration.
- Take an active interest in your child's school and social life. Encourage them to talk about daily events and occurrences.
- If you suspect bullying of your child at school, contact the class teacher or school administration immediately.

Responses to bullying

Reports of bullying will be investigated and acted upon. Responses to bullying might include targeted support for victims and perpetrators and/or sanctions or consequences consistent with the Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students.

At Moura State High School we support victims and perpetrators by;

- *Providing counselling support*
- *Conducting bully interviews (e.g. method of shared concern or no blame approach)*
- *Increased supervision of at risk areas*
- *Social skills programs targeting victims and perpetrators*
- *Involving parents or caregivers*

At Moura State High School the consequences for bullying might include the following (see schools Responsible Behaviour Plan);

- *Bully interviews*
- *Detention*
- *Withdrawal from class or the playground*
- *Family meetings*
- *Suspension and recommendation for exclusion where bullying is so severe no other form of consequence would be deemed adequate*

At Moura State High School our detailed responsibilities and responses include:

Staff

- Record and report all incidences of bullying including action taken. This is recorded in the behaviour management or one school, when operational, database. Information will be collated regularly by the Principal, HODs and Guidance Officer and where deemed necessary, specific incidents will be recorded in relevant student files.



Queensland
Government
Education Queensland



The Code of School Behaviour

Better Behaviour
Better Learning

- Offer the victim immediate support and help and advise them of the availability of welfare staff such as Principal, HODs, Guidance Officer or Year Level Co-ordinators.

STUDENTS –

Students will adopt an assertive, sequential response to all incidents of bullying involving themselves **or others**. This response will take the following form:

STEP 1 Tell the bully to stop.

(This communicates the message that their behaviour is unacceptable. They then have the opportunity to modify their behaviour. It also establishes the victim's control over the situation).

STEP 2 If the bullying does not cease immediately or has caused physical or emotional harm, tell someone in authority (teacher, non-teaching staff, HOD or Principal).

Students (victim, bully and by-standers) may be required to discuss reported incidents with a teacher, Year Level Co-ordinator, Guidance Officer, HODs or Principal. Such discussions will occur as soon as possible after the incident.

ALL students have a responsibility to discourage their peers from engaging in this conduct and to report bullying to someone in authority (as listed above). Students are encouraged to understand that this is not “dobbing” but is essential if everyone is to enjoy a safe, caring and supportive environment at school.

Parents

- Record details of persistent bullying of your child, including dates, times, where it happened, types of bullying and perpetrators.
- Encourage your child to report school bullying to teaching staff and administration.
- Assure your child that seeking help is okay and is an assertive measure to regain control.
- Do not encourage your child to hit back or verbally abuse the bully.
- Be prepared to assist the school in modifying your child's behaviour if he/she is identified as the bully. Do not accept personal blame for their actions. Instead, support the school in its endeavours to assist your child to become a responsible member of the school community.



Queensland
Government
Education Queensland



The Code of School Behaviour

Better Behaviour
Better Learning

Reporting and monitoring bullying

At Moura state High School reports of bullying are taken seriously. Students and parents may report bullying in the following ways.

- Directly to a member of staff
- Directly to a HOD or the Principal

Reports of bullying will be collated and monitored to inform the school community about the extent of bullying and to identify particular areas of concern for future action.

Related legislation

- *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*
- Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2006
- *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*
- *Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000*
- *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995*
- Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 1997

Related policies

- [SMS-PR-012: Student Protection](#)
- [SMS-PR-021: Safe, Supportive and Disciplined School Environment](#)
- [CRP-PR-009: Inclusive Education](#)
- [SMS-PR-018: Information Sharing under Child Protection Act 1999](#)
- [SMS-PR-008: Family Law Matters Affecting State Educational Institutions](#)
- [CMR-PR-001: Complaints Management](#)
- [SCM-PR-003: Appropriate Use of Mobile Telephones and other Electronic Equipment by Students](#)
- [SMS-PR-024: Internet - Student Usage](#)
- [SDV-PR-001: Employee Professional Development](#)
- [The Code of Conduct](#)

Some related resources

- National Safe Schools Framework (ncab.nssfbestpractice.org.au/resources/resources.shtml)
- National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools (www.valueseducation.edu.au)
- Bullying. No Way! (www.bullyingnoway.com.au)
- MindMatters (www.curriculum.edu.au/mindmatters)
- School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (www.learningplace.com.au/deliver/content.asp?pid=24668)
- Code of Conduct for School Students Travelling on Buses (<http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/buscode>)