

BLEDISLOE SCHOOL

STATEMENT ON BULLYING

Rationale

As part of its overall Health and Safety policies, Bledisloe School actively seeks to provide an environment that is safe from all forms of intimidation. This statement sits alongside our booklet 'Positive Behaviour for Learning at Bledisloe School' and is supported by the strategies and procedures outlined in that document.

PURPOSES

- To provide a comprehensive, universally understood definition of bullying behaviour
- To outline strategies for all members of the school community to follow to combat social, emotional, physical and other forms of intimidation
- To ensure that the principles of natural justice prevails in all cases and all involved are treated with respect

DEFINITION

Bullying usually has four common features-

- It is deliberate
- It is repeated over time
- It is difficult for those who bully to learn new social behaviours
- Those who bully have power, and exercise power over others.

There are four main types of bullying

- Physical: hitting, kicking, taking belongings
- Verbal: name calling, insulting and racist remarks, teasing and intimidation
- Social (relational) spreading nasty stories, exclusion from groups, withholding friendships, gossiping
- Cyber bullying through social networking is an increased threat in an IT literate world- it is the repeated spreading of rumours and nasty remarks through text messaging, posting of unkind comments or images, threats and/or criticism via social media sites

Not all acts of aggression are bullying. For example, although unacceptable behaviour, a one-off physical fight between children of similar size and strength is not bullying and nor are unkind words spoken in anger and in a one-off situation.

GUIDELINES

1. All members of the school community have a responsibility to recognise bullying and bring it to the immediate attention of "the teaching staff."
2. Staff should listen and make inquiries as may be necessary to clarify exactly what has been happening and keep a note.
3. All staff should treat any report of "bullying" from either parent or student(s) seriously and must discuss what action to take with a senior staff member. The principal **must** also be informed at this early stage. All communication between parents and school should be documented from this point on.

