



BALLAJURA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BULLYING & INTIMIDATION POLICY

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Any situation where a student feels unsafe in school because of bullying is not acceptable at BCC.

In 2014 Ballajura Community College committed to becoming a Positive Behaviour Support School. A leadership team identified in the College comprised of teachers, Heads of Departments, Deputy Principals and the College Principal.

The purpose of this team is to establish and implement explicit College practices that have common and consistent approaches to positive behaviour, social skills and expectations for achievement, in a safe and supportive learning environment.

After extensive collaboration and data collection between students, staff, parents, families and the community, our REACH philosophy was developed. The REACH philosophy defines expected behaviours at Ballajura Community College. The art work was developed by students and stands for; **Respect, Equity, Achievement, Care and Health.**

Our Beliefs:

- WE respect the rights of everyone to learn in a positive classroom environment.
- WE use polite and College appropriate language when communicating with staff and students.
- WE greet people appropriately when meeting them, smile and use the correct form of address.
- WE recognise and accept individual differences.
- WE give everyone an equal opportunity to learn together.
- WE challenge our beliefs and feelings about others.

So what is Bullying?

Bullying is when a student is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other students. It is not one off teasing, rough play or a fight but wilful, ongoing actions intended to hurt, threaten or frighten. Bullying may include any or all of the following:

VERBAL – name calling, put downs, mimicking, abusive phone calls, threats.

PHYSICAL – hitting, pushing, tripping, kicking, stealing or damaging belongings.

SOCIAL – ignoring, leaving out, spreading rumours.

CYBER – hurting someone using technology, via email, text message, chat rooms, discussion groups, social media websites or instant messaging.

Bullying is very often hidden from the College staff. The victim of bullying will often choose not to report what is happening because they may feel weak and ashamed, or frightened of making things worse. Some do not report the bullying because they feel it is wrong.

Prevention

At Ballajura Community College we have a responsibility to provide a safe and supportive environment for all members of the College community. A College approach that engages all key learning areas, all year levels and the wider community and includes many aspects of College life, such as curriculum, culture, teaching practices, policies and procedures, supports our ability to minimise bullying.

Ballajura Community College's bullying prevention strategies encompass:

- Integrated themes and strategies in the curriculum across all learning areas from years 7-12.
 - Anti-Bullying and social emotional learning is integrated into the curriculum across all learning areas with a focus in the Year 7-9 health curriculum.
 - The College curriculum includes explicit teachings into following the College's REACH philosophy. This is being respectful, equitable, achievers, caring and healthy.
 - Raising student awareness of the abusive nature of bullying and promote understanding of the potential seriousness of its effects.
 - Encouraging an ethos where students and bystanders act in ways that discourage and disclose bullying.
 - Student Services team available to advise, support, listen and assist students with bullying and other issues. Team consists of Managers, Year Coordinators, Youth Transition officer, Youth Work officer, Community nurse, Psychologist and Cultural Liaison officers.
 - Encouraging students to report bullying to College staff and parents. All reported bullying allegations are taken seriously and addressed following the College's behaviour management policy.
 - Classroom teachers adopt classroom management strategies which target active participation and reduce off task behaviour
- All incidents addressed by the College are accurately documented on SEQTA. This helps in creating a picture of student behaviour and a resource for future reflection and referral to Deputy Principals and Principal.

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If in doubt seek advice. The Student Services Team are available to support staff development with confidential and prompt advice.

Websites

www.bullyingnoway.com.au
www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/wellbeing/safecolleges/bullying
www.eddept.wa.edu.a/saer/policy/supvio.htm#violence
www.antibullying.net.au
www.edu.web.vic.gov.au
www.cms.curriculum.edu.au/mindmatters/