

# Parents as Partners - Preventing and Responding to Bullying



## What is Bullying?

In Australian schools including our school, bullying is defined as:

- ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through **repeated** verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that **intends** to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm;
- involving an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening;
- it can be **in person or online, obvious or hidden**. Bullying behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time (for example, through sharing of digital records);
- having **immediate, medium and long-term effects** on those involved, including bystanders.

**Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying. We manage and respond to single incidents and conflicts between equals, but they are not bullying.**

## Why is this important?

We think it is important to share an understanding of what bullying is and is not so that we make the right decisions about how to prevent, respond to and support our students and their families.

## How do we prevent bullying?

Our school community has identified the **Four Cares** to encompass our high standards of responsible behaviour:

- **Care for Self**
- **Care for Others**
- Care for Learning
- Care for our School Environment.

Through **Care Class**, our students learn how to use the High Five, how to recognise bullying, how to respond at the time and how to report bullying. We teach our students how to be supportive if they witness bullying and the importance of reporting it. We teach all of our students our five school values and they learn that any acts of bullying are unacceptable. We also reinforce this learning through **weekly circle times, Bullying, No Way!, daily discussions and modelling and termly celebrations of behaviours and values that align with our Four Cares.**

## How do we respond to bullying?

We **support any students affected by bullying**. Our Guidance Officer and Student Welfare Officer may support individual students, small groups or classes.

Students enrolled at Mango Hill State School may face in-school disciplinary action, such as Reflection (detention) where a leadership team member works with the student to reflect on their actions and design a restorative response, removing of privileges, or more serious consequences such as suspension or exclusion from school for engaging in behaviour that adversely affects, or is likely to adversely affect, other students or the good order and management of the school. This includes behaviour which occurs outside of school hours or settings, for example on the weekend or during school holidays. It also applies to inappropriate behaviour of enrolled students that is directed towards other community members or students from other school sites.

See our **Mango Hill State School Student Code of Conduct (2021-2024)** to see our Bullying Response Flowchart for further details.

## What support can be provided at home?

If your child talks to you about bullying:

- **Listen** calmly and get the full story.
- **Reassure** your child that they are not to blame.
- **Ask** your child what they want to do about it and how you can help.
- **Contact** your child's teacher and seek support
- **Check in regularly** with your child.

If after talking or meeting with your child's class teacher, your child needs further support please contact your child's Deputy Principal.