

Riverside Girls High School

Anti-bullying Plan 2024

Bullying behaviour has three key features. It involves the intentional misuse of power in a relationship. It is ongoing and repeated, and it involves behaviours that can cause harm. The NSW Department of Education requires all NSW public schools to have an Anti-bullying Plan which details the strategies implemented to reduce student bullying behaviours.

Resources

The NSW anti-bullying website (see: <https://antibullying.nsw.gov.au/>) provides evidence-based resources and information for schools, parents and carers, and students. Schools are encouraged to visit the website to support whole-school prevention, early intervention and response approaches and strategies for student bullying behaviour.

Riverside Girls High School's commitment

Our school rejects all forms of bullying behaviours, including online (or cyber) bullying by maintaining a commitment to providing a safe, inclusive and respectful learning community that promotes student wellbeing. Executive staff are committed to establishing evidence-based approaches and strategies that promote a positive climate where bullying is less likely to occur.

1. School culture and inclusion

All members of the school community are active participants in building a welcoming school culture that values diversity and fosters positive relationships. A key component of a supportive school culture is building respectful relationships and an ethos that bullying is not accepted, in both online and offline environments. School staff will actively respond to student bullying behaviour.

Our school engages in the following practices to promote a positive school culture.

1.1. Student assemblies

Student bullying and expectations about student behaviour will be discussed and information presented to promote a positive school culture where bullying is not accepted.

Dates	Communication Topics
Whole School Assembly Term 1	Behaviour code for students – students are informed of the Department of Education Behaviour Code and the Actions they need to take to ensure every person in the school feels safe and included. They are also informed about the School Stage Behaviour System.
Whole School Assemblies throughout the year	Inclusivity and diversity is celebrated via Harmony Day, NAIDOC week, Wear It Purple Day
Year 7 and 9 in term 1 and 2	Cyber Safety programs delivered in PDHPE in the first half of the year to explicitly teach students how to navigate friendships online and what part they play in having a positive impact in chat groups and social media platforms.
Year meetings throughout the year	Police Youth Liaison Officer addresses each year group about Cyber Safety and how to be a responsible cyber citizen.
Support groups throughout the year	Support groups like SAGA, facilitated by the Student Support Officer, to celebrate and acknowledge diversity amongst the LGBTQI+ community
August 2024	Anti-Bullying Day – to encourage students to grow positive connections with their peer sand the community.
Year 7 and Year 10	Peer support program to encourage positive peer-mentoring and explicitly discuss Anti-Bullying.

1.2 Staff communication and professional learning

Staff will be supported with professional learning that provides evidence-based ways to encourage and teach positive social and emotional wellbeing and discourage, prevent, identify, and respond effectively to student bullying behaviour.

Dates	Communication topics and Professional learning
School Development Day Term 1	All staff trained in use of Stage Behaviour System, to support students to make positive choices at school and to provide opportunities to improve behaviour if they have demonstrated behaviours of concern.
Terms 1 and 2	Sort-It Out and Conflict management for Wellbeing Team

1.3. New and casual staff

New and casual staff will be informed about our school's approaches and strategies to prevent and respond to student bullying behaviour in the following ways.

New and casual staff are provided with a staff handbook which provides a detailed overview of school processes for conflict resolution and the school's approach to bullying.

New permanent staff undertake an induction program and have access to the Staff Information drive which contains information about up-to-date school processes and department policies.

2. Partnerships with families and community

Effective schools have high levels of parental and community involvement. This involvement is strongly related to improved student learning, attendance and behaviour. Our school proactively builds collaborative relationships with families and communities to create a shared understanding of how to support student learning, safety and wellbeing.

2.1. Website

Our school website has information to support families help their children to regulate their emotions and behaviour and develop socially. Information is provided to assist if children have been involved in bullying behaviour (as the person engaging in bullying behaviour, as the person being bullied or as the person witnessing the bullying behaviour).

The following are published on our school's website. Check the boxes that apply.

☐ School Anti-bullying Plan ☒ NSW Anti-bullying website ☒ Behaviour Code for Students

2.2. Communication with parents

Our school will provide information to parents to help promote a positive school culture where bullying is not acceptable and to increase parent's understanding of how our school addresses all forms of bullying behaviour.

Dates	Communication methods and topics
Term 1	Parent Information via the school newsletter, provides an overview of the school support system
	Parents are informed on how to report school-related behaviours of concern to the school
	Information on how to develop positive responses to bullying is available on the school website

3. Support for wellbeing and positive behaviours

Our school's practices support student wellbeing and positive behaviour approaches that align with our school community's needs.


Social and emotional skills related to personal safety, resilience, help-seeking and protective behaviours are explicitly taught across the curriculum in Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE).

Examples of other ways our school will embed student wellbeing and positive behaviour approaches and strategies in practices include the following.


1. Year meetings/pastoral care activities throughout the year, that will focus on; developing positive relationships; building Resilience; Standing up to bullying; how to be an Upstander;
2. School Wellbeing website; providing support strategies for students and parents
3. Cyberbullying presentation (ext. providers)
4. SRC Initiatives
5. School camps and programs such as peer support maximise student interactions

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