

What does the school do?

Bullying behaviour is not tolerated at Margaret River Primary School.

In the first incident of reported bullying occurring at school the classroom teacher will talk to all students involved indicating the seriousness of the matter.

If the bullying continues the matter will be reported to the school administration, who will talk to all students involved to devise strategies to manage the situation.

Further incidences will result in parents being asked to attend an interview with the school administration to put strategies in place to resolve the issue.

Any member of the school community can be a bystander (aware of or a witness to bullying behaviour). If the situation arises, the school will counsel bystanders with strategies to act successfully in preventing or stopping bullying.

The following websites offer advice and resources for students and parents on identifying and coping with bullying situations:

www.cybersmart.gov.au

www.bullyingnoway.com.au

<http://www.det.wa.edu.au/behaviourandwelling>



Margaret River Primary School



Student Health and Wellbeing Anti-Bullying Guidelines

Our policy

Margaret River Primary School aims to provide a safe and inclusive environment where students feel that they are supported and belong.

Our Code of Conduct supports the values of Respect, Honesty, Empathy, Flexibility, Cooperation and Enthusiasm across the whole school community.

We have a strong emphasis throughout the school on Emotional Intelligence and attend to the Australian Curriculum General Capabilities of Personal and Social Capability, Ethical Behaviour and Intercultural Understanding.

What is bullying behaviour?

The Department of Education Behaviour Management in Schools Policy, effective 28 January 2008, defines bullying as:

*“5.2—When an individual or group misuses power to target another individual or group to intentionally threaten or harm them **on more than one occasion**. This may involve verbal, physical, relational and psychological forms of bullying. Teasing or fighting between peers is not necessarily bullying.”*

Bullying can take the form of:

- cyber bullying (technologies such as email, text messages, instant messaging, you tube);
- physical bullying (repetitive low level hitting, kicking, pinching, punching, pushing, tripping, ‘ganging up’, damage to personal property);
- psychological bullying (threats, unwanted messages, threatening gestures, emotional blackmail, threats to an individuals reputation and sense of safety);
- relational bullying (repeatedly ostracising others, making up or spreading rumours, threatening to share personal information); and
- verbal bullying (repeated use of words to hurt or humiliate).

What can you do?

Students:

- Ask the person bullying you to stop, let them know that you do not like their actions/words. If they do not stop, tell someone. MRPS does not tolerate bullying and will support students who ask for help.
- If you believe you have been bullied you need to speak to a person who you can trust: a teacher or Education Assistant, a deputy or the Principal, your parents, the School Chaplain or a friend.
- You have a right, and responsibility, to report bullying if it is happening to you or to someone else.
- If you know of someone that is being bullied be responsible and take actions to stop the bullying, as outlined above.
- Recognise that most people exhibit bullying behaviour at some time in their lives. Help maintain a safe and inclusive environment at our school by avoiding bullying behaviour yourself.

Parents:

- If you think your child is being bullied, discuss this with your child and then meet with the classroom teacher if the situation does not improve.
- Encourage your child to report the bullying.
- Signs to look out for: fear of going to school, lack of friends, missing or damaged belongings, torn clothes, increased anxiety.