

MURRAY BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL



Excellence, Respect, Working together

STRIVING TO BE FREE OF BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

The only way we can completely remove
bullying and harassment
from our environment is if YOU
choose NOT TO DO IT



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

SCHOOL RATIONALE

We at Murray Bridge High School understand the danger and implications of bullying and harassment for both the victim and perpetrator in both the immediate and long term. It is for this reason that Murray Bridge High School has developed, in accordance with State and Federal Government legislation and Department for Education Policies; the Murray Bridge High School Harassment Policy.

Bullying, Harassment, and violence in all its forms have no place in the Murray Bridge High School Community. Therefore, our school affirms the right of all members of the school community to work, learn and play in a safe and secure environment.

This may include such aims of the school as:

- Create a working and learning environment that is free from harassment of any kind, where members of the school community are treated with courtesy, dignity and RESPECT.
- Promote appropriate standards of conduct at all times.
- Implement strategies to ensure that all members of the school community know their rights and responsibilities in this area.
- Encourage the reporting of inappropriate behaviour.
- Provide an effective complaints procedure based on principles of natural justice.
- Treat all complaints in a serious, sensitive, fair, timely and confidential manner.

FORMS OF BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Discriminatory behaviour or abuse on the grounds of another's gender, actual or assumed sexual orientation or gender identity. Unwanted touching, calling you rude names, ridiculing, leering, wolf whistling or making comments of a sexual nature.

RACIST HARASSMENT

Put down remarks about your physical appearance or culture, making fun of your accent, telling racist jokes or writing racist graffiti, using racist language or material.

BULLYING

Name calling, put downs, jokes and comments, unfair criticism and rumour spreading, verbal or physical threats, hitting, pushing or punching, demanding money or possessions, staring or glaring.

CYBER-BULLYING

Using email, voice or text messages to threaten or abuse others - prank phone calls, sending inappropriate images, vandalising images and walls on social networking sites.

Serious breaches of the Harassment Policy will result in immediate suspension. eg. Physical violence (and/or threat of) sexual harassment.



WHAT CAN STUDENTS DO?

- Respect and value other students, staff and members of the school community.
- Not bully and harass other students or teachers.
- Be compassionate and empathetic. Understand the effects of racism, sexual harassment and bullying on individuals and groups within our society.
- Develop appropriate skills and behaviours in communicating and working effectively with people from a variety of backgrounds.
- Take responsibility for their own behaviours – tell the person or people who are harassing them to STOP.
- If harassment continues approach a class teacher, other trusted teacher, SSO, Wellbeing Leader or Student Pathways Leader.
- Talk to parents or caregivers.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

Remind your child that they are a worthwhile and highly valued individual and assist them in maintaining positive self-worth. Discuss positive strategies rather than getting even.

Advise your child to tell a trusted teacher.

Watch for signs of distress and behavioural changes in your child such as:

- Unwillingness to attend school
- A pattern of headaches or stomach aches
- Personal items or equipment that have gone missing.
- Damage to clothing or bruising

SUPPORT

If harassment continues, parents and students can contact:

- HOME GROUP TEACHER
- SUBJECT TEACHER
- STUDENT WELLBEING LEADERS
- STUDENT PATHWAYS LEADERS
- ABORIGINAL EDUCATION TEAM
- PASTORAL SUPPORT WORKER
- ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS
- DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
- PRINCIPAL

HARASSMENT INTERVENTION PROCEDURE

Step 1:

What can I do?

- Ignore it
- Show it doesn't upset me
- Ask them to stop
- Tell them how I feel

Step 2:

I should now go to a teacher, parent/caregiver or trusted adult, Student wellbeing Leader or Pastoral Support Worker.

They will:

- Help make a plan to deal with the issue
- Formally record the harassment
- Document any action taken – this may be:
 - A warning to the perpetrator
 - A restorative meeting

Step 3:

Conflict has not been resolved. Report to a Student Pathways Leader or Student Wellbeing Leader

They will (depending on the severity);

- Give an After School Detention to the perpetrator
- Contact parents of all parties involved.
- Suspend the perpetrator
- Recommend parents to contact police if warranted

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

The following telephone numbers and websites can provide support and information about bullying and harassment:

- Department for Education information for parents and students
www.education.sa.gov.au/supporting-students/health-e-safety-and-wellbeing/cyber-safety-bullying-and-harassment
- Bullying No Way:
www.bullyingnoway.gov.au
- Racism No Way:
www.racismnoway.com.au
- Women's and Children's Health Network
www.cyh.com
- Parent Helpline: 1 300 364 100
- Kids Helpline: 1 800 551 800
- Youth Beyond Blue:
www.youthbeyondblue.com
- Parenting SA *Parent Easy Guides*
www.parentingsa.a.gov.au
- Equal Opportunity Commission of SA: equal opportunity, human rights and laws, complaints:
www.eoc.sa.gov.au 8207 1977

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