

NSW Department of Education Anti-bullying Plan 2019

Preamble

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.

The NSW anti-bullying website (**see: <https://antibullying.nsw.gov.au/>**) provides evidence-based resources and information for schools, parents, 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.

Ambarvale High 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.

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.

Implementation

All school staff actively respond to student bullying behaviour. Our school engages in the following practices to promote a positive school culture:

- The Behaviour Code for Students is on the School Website.
- The Ambarvale Ambassador Program, which identifies and rewards students who engage in positive behaviour choices, are offered reward excursions each term.
- Whole School Assemblies - Student bullying and expectations about positive student behaviour are discussed and information is presented to promote a positive school culture where bullying is not accepted.
- School Merit System and Ruby Assemblies occur - these are the ceremonies that formally recognise the students within our school who make positive behaviour choices.
- **Terms 1- 4** The delivery of Links to Learning, incorporates modules that explore positive relationships and resilience building.
- **Terms 1-4** The Drop In is held weekly and provides students with the details of current service providers and activities available to them within the local community.
- **Terms 1- 4** Congratulations Calls and Letters - parents are informed, by staff of Ambarvale High School, that their child is a positive member of the school community.
- **Term 1** TRREC values at AHS are explained to students during roll call and are the foundation for school PB4L.

- **Term 1** Year Assemblies - Year Advisors and Assistant Year Advisors discuss the School Behaviour Code for Students and the Anti-Bullying Policy.
- **Term 1** School participation in the National Day of Action against Bullying.
- **Term 1** School participation in Harmony Day focusing on inclusion and kindness.
- **Term 1** Year 7 Transition Camp focusing on friendship building, resilience and making positive behaviour choices.
- **Term 1** Motivational Media – a presentation for all students focusing on individual strength and positivity.
- **Term 3** Pastoral Care Learning during Roll call in which all students actively engage in activities with an anti-bullying focus including what bullying is, strategies on how to avoid it and what to do if it occurs.
- **Term 4** Multi-Cultural Day is the whole school celebration of our diverse and inclusive school community.
- **Term 4** Academic Assemblies celebrating student achievement.

Staff communication and professional learning:

Staff are 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. Communication topics and Professional Learning include:

- Distribution of The Staff handbook - containing Anti Bullying Policy and TRREC Behaviour Flow Chart. The Head Teacher Administration provides this information to casual teaching staff.
- TPL that enables staff to develop their capacity to implement policy, support school values, identify and manage incidents of bullying should they occur.
- AHS Bullying Booklet is accessible to all staff.
- Roll call activities focus on Bullying is provided to staff for delivery.

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.

- School Website and Facebook Page – contain information to support families to help their children including community programs, resources and organisations that can work with families supporting aspects of child rearing and social development.
- The following are published on our school’s website:
School Anti-bullying Plan NSW
Anti-bullying website
Behaviour Code for Students

Communication with parents - Our school provides information to parents promoting a positive school culture where bullying is not acceptable, increasing parent's understanding of how our school addresses all forms of bullying behaviour. As a community, Ambarvale High School utilises:

- The Ambargram School newsletter which defines student bullying and school supports
- Ambarvale High School's Wellbeing Pamphlet, which outlines support systems within our school community.
- School Facebook page and Website publishes Ambarvale High School's Anti-Bullying Policy, TRREC Values and Behaviour Code for Students.

Support of student wellbeing and positive behaviours:

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

- The Wellbeing Team
- Student Support Officers
- School Counsellors.
- Interagency communication and information sharing.
- Referrals to external agencies including MFRS, ICAMHS and Headspace.

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 embeds student wellbeing and positive behaviour approaches and strategies in practice include the following:

- The Ambarvale Ambassador Program.
- Congratulation Calls and Letters.
- Reward Excursions.
- Merit Award System.
- Ruby, Ambassador and Academic Assemblies.
- Roll call programs which develop student wellbeing.