

ANTI-BULLYING PLAN 2023

NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL OF THE PERFORMING ARTS

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.

Newtown High School of the Performing Arts' 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
Term 1	Student Behaviour Management Policy and Anti Bullying Plan (All Year groups)
Term 1	'Bullying No Way' National Day of Action (Whole School)
Throughout the year	Year Meetings to promote a positive school culture (All Year groups)
Terms 1, 2, 3 or 4	Peer Support Lessons with Anti Bullying Focus
Terms 1, 2, 3 or 4	Bully busters/Cyber buster (or similar) (Years 7/ 8)
Terms 1, 2, 3 or 4	Guest Speaker (Years 9/10)
Term 3	Police Liaison Officer- Cyber Bullying (Years 7, 8, 9 and 10)

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
Term 1	Student Behaviour Management Policy and Anti-Bullying Plan presented to staff
Throughout the year	Professional Learning- Social media and cyberbullying focus Wellbeing Updates at Senior Executive Meetings and Executive Meetings that are communicated back to all teachers during Faculty Meetings. Weekly meetings between the Principal and the school counsellors.
Term 4	Review the effectiveness of the Plan

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.

- Deputy Principal, Teaching and Learning, to induct new and temporary staff on school policies and plans
- Deputy Principal, Teaching and Learning, to ensure all staff have an updated staff handbook.
- Head Teacher Administration to induct casual staff on school policies and plans
- Head Teacher to monitor and assist new and casual staff

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 to 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
At least once through the year	Parent information session- Cyber Bullying P&C Meetings
Throughout the year	Fortnightly Bulletins, School Website and social media pages used to reinforce the school's position on bullying and to provide information and advice to students and parents.
Terms 1, 2 & 3	Parent Teacher Nights

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.

- Year Meetings with Positive Psychology focus – Positive Relationships, Resilience, Meaning & Purpose, Engagement
- Year 9 and 10 Coaching Program
- Peer Support Program
- Year 10 & 11 Transition Programs
- Year 12 Mentoring program
- Year 8/11 Coaching Program
- Focus Days – Year 7, 8 and 9
- Community Centre Visits
- Presentation Assemblies – All Year groups
- Social, Emotional and Environmental Development (S.E.E.D.) Program
- Boys Wellbeing Program
- Year 8 Digital Citizenship
- Restorative Practice – School-wide
- Year 9 Leadership Camp
- Year 11 Crossroads Camp
- Wellbeing Team comprising of Deputy Principal, Year Advisers, Assistant Year Advisers and school counsellors
- Learning & Support Program
- Signage in the Classroom

Completed by: Leisa Munns and Nilaufer Rajwar

Position: Deputy Principals

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Principal name: Dr. Susan Green

Signature: _____ **Date:** 26/10/23