

ANTI BULLYING POLICY

This policy is informed by:

- CMS Student Welfare Policy 2015
- CMS Bullying, Harassment and Violence 2006
- CMS Suspension and Exclusion Policy 2006
- CMS Duty of Care Policy 2011
- CMS Playground Policy 2015

Statement:

Canberra Montessori School is committed to provide a caring, friendly and safe environment for all students so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at the school and will not be tolerated. We believe each child and their family has the right to feel assured all bullying situations will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

Rational:

The purpose of this policy is to set out the responsibilities of CMS community members to ensure a positive culture where bullying is not accepted, and in so doing, students have the opportunity to learn to the best of their ability, extend their personal growth and achieve their potential.

What is bullying?

Bullying is an act of aggression causing embarrassment or discomfort to another student and has the following features:

- it can take a number of forms: physical, verbal, gesture, extortion and exclusion
- it is an abuse of power
- it can be planned and organised
- it may be unintentional but still hurtful to the victim
- individuals or groups may be involved
- It is repeated and ongoing

Behaviours considered to be bullying.

Physical Bullying includes:

- any form of physical violence such as hitting, pushing or spitting on others
- interfering with another person's property by stealing, hiding, damaging or destroying it
- rude gestures
- extortion of goods or money
- writing offensive notes or graffiti about others

- forcing others to act against their will

Verbal Bullying includes:

- using offensive names
- teasing or spreading rumours about others and their families
- using put-downs
- belittling others' abilities and achievements
- making degrading comments about another's culture, religious or social background
- ridiculing another's appearance

Indirect Bullying includes:

- spreading nasty rumours
- hurtfully excluding others from social groups

If students are bullied:

- they may feel frightened, unsafe, embarrassed, angry or unfairly treated
- their work, sleep and ability to concentrate may suffer
- their relationships with their family and friends may deteriorate
- they may feel confused and not know what to do about the problem

School responsibilities

- Canberra Montessori School will take all reports of bullying seriously
- Canberra Montessori School Staff will initially promote a positive resolution for all children involved
- Canberra Montessori School Staff will contact all those involved if further resolution is required

| Approved by: | Date: | Next Review Date: |
|--------------|----------|-------------------|
| Principal | 1/2/2023 | 1/2/2025 |