Mackay District Special School
Bully Prevention Strategy

To be read in conjunction with Responsible Behaviour Plan for students.

Rationale
State schools in Queensland are committed to providing quality learning opportunities that enable all students to achieve within safe, supportive and disciplined learning environments. Mackay District Special School is committed to upholding this rationale.

School community beliefs about bullying
“Bullying is repeated oppression, psychological or physical, of a less powerful person by a more powerful person or groups of persons”
“Bullying might include:
1. Direct physical threats or assaults
2. Social exclusion of one by another or a group
3. Verbal insults or spreading rumours
4. Sending of threatening or demeaning messages by SMS, Email, Internet
5. Non verbal signals

At Mackay District Special School bullying in all its forms is not accepted and all members of Mackay District Special School accept their responsibility to promote positive relationships and to prevent bullying.

Educational Programs
It is important that students, staff and parents understand what bullying is, how it impacts on people and how bullying is responded to at Mackay District Special School. At Mount Isa Special we use the following educational strategies.
For example
  Focussed Class lessons
  Bully workshops with Guidance Officer when appropriate
  Triple P Parent programs through Centre Care
  Counselling Services

Prevention Programs
Effective social skill and positive relationships act to prevent bullying. At Mackay District Special School we promote effective social skills and positive relationships by, drawing to school community’s attention the school’s values that support positive behavioural expectations and positive behavioural support plans.
Responses to bullying
Reports of bullying will be investigated and acted upon. Responses to bullying might include targeted support for victims and perpetrators and/or sanctions or consequences consistent with the Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students.
At Mackay District Special School we support victims and perpetrators by;
- Providing counselling support
- Conducting bully interviews (e.g. method of shared concern)
- Increased supervision of at risk areas
- Social skills programs targeting victims and perpetrators

At Mackay District Special School the consequences for bullying might include the following;
- Bully interviews
- Detention
- Family meetings
- Suspension and recommendation for exclusion where bullying is so severe no other form of consequence would be deemed adequate

Reporting and monitoring bullying
At Mackay District Special School reports of bullying are taken seriously. Students and parents may report bullying in the following ways.
- Directly to a member of staff
- Email to the.principal@mountisaspecs.eq.edu.au
- Telephone the school on 47450888
- Contacting the principal directly
- Dropping a report into the the office
- Via home communication books

Reports of bullying will be collated and monitored to inform the school community about the extent of bullying and to identify particular areas of concern for future action.

Related legislation
- Education (General Provisions) Act 2006
- Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2006
- Anti-Discrimination Act 1991
- Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000
- Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 1997
Related policies

- SMS-PR-012: Student Protection
- SMS-PR-021: Safe, Supportive and Disciplined School Environment
- CRP-PR-009: Inclusive Education
- SMS-PR-018: Information Sharing under Child Protection Act 1999
- SMS-PR-008: Family Law Matters Affecting State Educational Institutions
- CMR-PR-001: Complaints Management
- SCM-PR-003: Appropriate Use of Mobile Telephones and other Electronic Equipment by Students
- SMS-PR-024: Internet - Student Usage
- SDV-PR-001: Employee Professional Development
- The Code of Conduct

Some related resources

- National Safe Schools Framework
  (ncab.nssfbestpractice.org.au/resources/resources.shtml)
- National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools
  (www.valueseducation.edu.au)
- Bullying. No Way! (www.bullyingnoway.com.au)
- MindMatters (www.curriculum.edu.au/mindmatters)
- School Wide Positive Behaviour Support
- Code of Conduct for School Students Travelling on Buses