



Murray Bridge South Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy

Be Safe. Be Kind. Be Ready to Learn.

Approved: May 2026



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Murray Bridge South Primary School



Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy

(Updated May 2026 to align with Department for Education policies and procedures)

1. Purpose

Murray Bridge South Primary School is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment where bullying and harassment are not tolerated. This policy aligns with the Department for Education's "Addressing Bullying in Schools" policy, Disability Inclusion Act 2018, and Positive Behaviour Support frameworks. Our goal is to foster a caring and respectful community in which every member considers the welfare of others.

2. Aims

- Establish a safe, caring and tolerant school atmosphere.
- Set clear procedures for responding to and managing bullying and harassment.
- Raise awareness of every student's right to learn and thrive without fear of emotional or physical harm.
- Encourage all students, staff, and families to report incidents of bullying and harassment.
- Counteract the notion that bullying is an inevitable part of school life.

3. Statement on Bullying

Our school community commits to upholding respect, safety, and trust, actively valuing inclusion and diversity in accordance with both the Positive Behaviour Support policy and the Disability Inclusion Act 2018.

All students and staff have the right to enjoy their time at school free from intimidation and discrimination.

4. Definitions

Harassment

Harassment is any uninvited, unwelcome or unwanted behaviour that causes another person to feel hurt, uncomfortable, or unsafe. This includes discriminatory, sexual or racial harassment and is not limited to students, staff, parents, and community members are also protected under DfE policies.

Bullying

Bullying is repeated, intentional behaviour by an individual or group that causes harm or distress to another, typically where there is an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal, social or online (cyberbullying).

Examples include:

- Threats, intimidation, exclusion, teasing, name-calling, and spreading rumours.
- Physical violence or the threat of violence.
- Sexual, racial, cultural or disability-based harassment.
- Damaging, hiding or demanding belongings.
- Cyberbullying: using digital platforms to inflict harm.

Bystanders

A bystander is anyone who witnesses, knows about, or is present during incidents of bullying. Bystanders can play a crucial role in stopping or perpetuating bullying.

5. Rights and Responsibilities

Rights

To feel safe
To learn
To be respected
To be valued

Responsibilities

To respect yourself and others
To promote safety and inclusion
To report incidents and support others
To act with kindness and integrity

6. Anti-Bullying and Harassment

Our policy applies to all members of the school community, students, staff, parents, visitors and volunteers. We are committed to a workplace free from bullying and harassment, in line with the Behaviour Support policy.

7. Responding to Bullying and Harassment

Student Steps

If bullying or harassment is happening to you or someone else:

1. Clearly tell the person their behaviour is unwelcome.
2. Walk away, if safe to do so.
3. Support your peers and encourage reporting.
4. Seek help from a trusted adult, teacher, SSO, family or leadership.
5. Report incidents verbally or in writing.
6. Refrain from retaliation.
7. If unsafe to travel, inform parents or walk with friends.

Staff Processes

- Listen to and address complaints empathetically.
- Adhere to Positive Behaviour Support and Protective Practices.
- Act promptly and follow DfE's 'Responding to Bullying and Harassment' procedures.
- Encourage bystander action and support victims.
- Document incidents and report upward as required.

Parent/Carer Support

- Be alert to signs of distress.
- Support your child to report issues to school promptly.
- Discourage retaliation; discuss positive strategies.
- Foster resilience, kindness and inclusivity at home.

8. Investigation and Consequences

All reports are treated seriously and confidentially. Actions may include:

- Restorative conversations.
- Parent/carers contact.
- Individual or group counselling.
- Loss of privileges.
- Suspension or exclusion for repeated/severe incidents, in line with DfE guidelines.

9. Reporting and Support

- Students and parents can report concerns to any staff member.
- Anonymous reporting is available through class meetings or via student emails.
- The school's Wellbeing Leader is available for support and information.
- Serious incidents may be escalated to external agencies when required.

10. Positive Behaviour Promotion

- Whole school wellbeing programs and focus weeks.
- Continued staff development and professional learning in positive behaviour practices.
- Student leadership (CEOs), student voice, and partnership with families.
- Programs to encourage inclusion and peer support.

11. Grievance Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of an incident, please refer to the school's published Grievance Procedure, available at the front office or the school's website. The department's Complaints and Feedback policy is also followed.

12. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually in alignment with the Department for Education's latest policies and procedures and is endorsed by the Governing Council.

Departmental Reference Links:

- [Addressing Bullying and Harassment in Schools Policy](#)
- [Disability Inclusion Act 2018](#)
- [Protective Practices Policy](#)