



## **Anti-Bullying Policy**

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# Anti-Bullying Policy

## How does Coodanup College discourage bullying?

Coodanup College has a responsibility to provide a learning environment that promotes dignity and safety of students, as well as reduce all forms of bullying, harassment and aggression. Information in this document supports the Guidelines for Preventing and Managing Bullying and the Behaviour Management in Schools Policy from the Department of Education, WA.

Coodanup College is a Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) school and upholds the four school values of:

- We will learn
- We will be safe
- We will be fair
- We will be proud

For more information about Positive Behaviour Support at Coodanup College, please see the PBS section on the College website.

Bullying is against the mission and purpose of Coodanup College. Our expectation is that students manage conflict responsibly, are kind, considerate and appreciative of others, and report bullying to staff.

Coodanup College does not tolerate bullying, violence, discrimination or harassment.

Students and staff at Coodanup College have a responsibility to help prevent these behaviours from occurring.

## What is bullying?

Bullying is “repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that causes physical and/or psychological harm” (Bullying No Way, 2015).

It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power over one or more persons. Bullying can happen in person or online, and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert).

Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying however, these conflicts still need to be addressed and resolved.

Behaviours that do not constitute bullying include:

- Mutual arguments and disagreements (where there is no power imbalance).
- Not liking someone or a single act of social rejection.
- One-off acts of meanness or spite.
- Isolated incidents of aggression, intimidation or violence.

These issues may simply mean that a person lacks inter-personal skills. Support is required for these matters and the Year Coordinators and Student Services Team can assist.

## Roles students may play in bullying:

Students may take on different roles in different circumstances.

The range of roles students take in bullying may be:

- As the target of bullying.
- The student engaging in bullying behaviour.
- As a bystander – someone who sees or knows about someone being bullied.

Bystanders can play a number of roles:

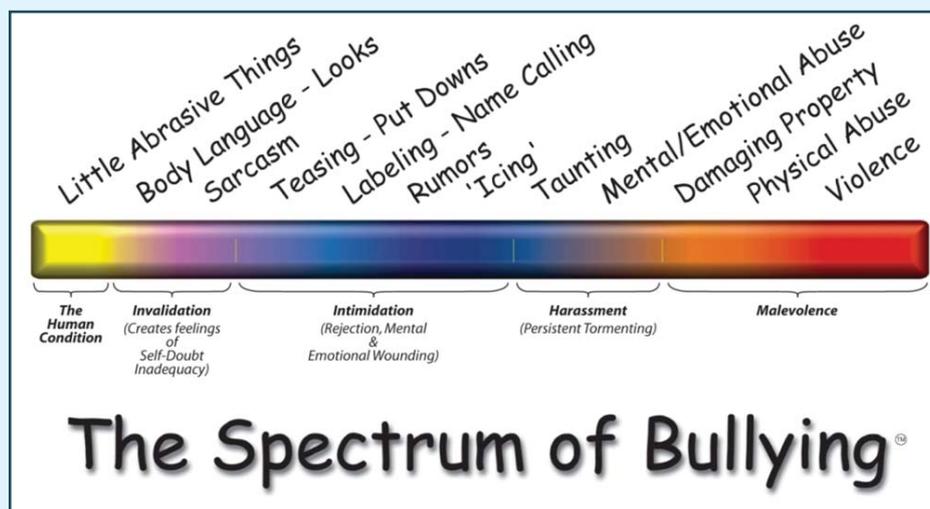
- Students who assist the students who are bullying and actively joining in.
- Students who encourage and give silent approval to the students who are bullying.
- Students who watch the bullying (or hear about it) but are passive and do nothing.
- Students who defend or support the student who is being bullied by intervening, getting teacher support or comforting them.

Bystanders play an important role in bullying. The ‘Coodanup College Way’ is for bystanders to get teacher support and look after young people impacted by bullying.

## How does Coodanup College discourage bullying?

Research, both in Australia and overseas, supports the following strategies to prevent and reduce bullying at Coodanup College:

- A whole-school approach that utilises a multi-faceted approach to bullying prevention.
- An increased awareness of bullying in our school community through:
  - Bullying prevention sessions with students during transition.
  - Year group and whole school assemblies.
  - Bullying sessions with the Theatrical Response Group (Constable Care Child Safety Foundation) named 'Isolation' with all Year 7, 8 and 9 students.
  - Use of the Bullying Spectrum resource in education sessions and during individual incidents (see below).



*Continuum: Spectrum of bullying*

- A whole-school detailed policy that addresses bullying.
- Effective classroom management, classroom rules and a positive school environment that promotes safety, as outlined in the Positive Behaviour Support section of the College website.
- Effective methods of behaviour management that are non-hostile and non-punitive, including use of Restorative Justice Practices.

## What to do if you are a student who is being bullied or know bullying is taking place:

- As soon as possible, get teacher support so they can help address the problem. Remember it is always okay to talk about bullying. The Year Coordinator and Student Services Staff are able to support with bullying situations and help students deal with bullying and harassment.
- Talk to someone at home about what is happening.
- Make a commitment to treating everyone with respect and dignity.
- If you are a bystander in a bullying situation, offer support to the person who is being bullied and encourage them to seek help.
- If the bullying is occurring online or via text messages, ensure records of the bullying are kept and talk to a teacher or guardian immediately.
- If students do not feel comfortable speaking to parents, staff or peers, the Kids Helpline can be contacted on **1800 55 1800** to provide further support and guidance.

## What to do if you become aware that your child or another student is being bullied:

- Listen to the young person, offer support and contact the Year Coordinator immediately. This ensures that the situation is addressed quickly and appropriately.
- Parents/guardians who want to support their child are encouraged to access the following website:  
**[www.takeastandtogether.gov.au](http://www.takeastandtogether.gov.au)**
- Encourage your child to uphold the values of the College and be a supportive member of the College Community.

Coodanup College is committed to creating a positive College community. In order to achieve this, the College will review the policy and procedures on an annual basis. If there are any recommendations for improvement to the College's Anti-Bullying Policy, you are welcome to send your ideas to the Student Services Manager.

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"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed  
by the things that you didn't do than by the ones  
**you did do.** So throw off the bowlines.  
Sail away from the safe harbour.  
Catch the trade winds in your sails.

*Explore. Dream. Discover."*

**Mark Twain**