

What happens when a bullying incident is reported?

- We use Restorative Justice practices when counselling both the bullied person and the bullying person.
- After a bullying incident is reported or a *Student Incident Report* is handed in, the teacher or staff delegate will have individual meetings with the student(s) being bullied, the student(s) bullying and any bystanders, who may have seen what was happening.
- The incident will be thoroughly investigated and principles of natural justice will be applied where appropriate.
- Consequences will be enforced when bullying incidents occur.

What are the consequences for bullying at R.S.S.?

Consequences of bullying behaviours, (depending on the severity and frequency of the incident) may include one or more of the following

- an apology to the person being bullied.
- time out from play, for those doing the bullying.
- incident report sticker in student's diary.
- phone call, letter or interview with parents of bullying student.
- counselling.
- internal suspension at play times.
- take home / suspension / exclusion.

How does R.S.S. promote positive behaviours at school?

Our school continually strives to promote positive attitudes and behaviour in all members of the school community by -

- promoting the whole school community award scheme, through the *Lambert* and *Woodberry Awards*.
- Each classroom having personal achievement goals and class award structures, which relate to both academic and behavioural aspects of the community.
- expecting all school community members to follow the *Grievance Policy*, which aims to provide positive outcomes through positive behaviours.
- *Positive Behaviour Incentive* strategies to reward the quiet achievers.

How can parents help?

- As parents, you can best help us by contacting classroom teachers or the Principal when issues of bullying arise with your child.
- Please listen to what your child needs to say and assure him/her, that you will speak to someone about it.
- Do not deal directly with the other children or their parents, but work through and with the school.

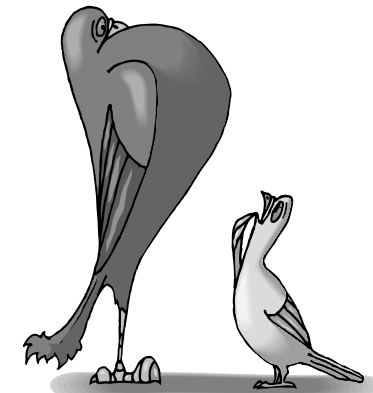
For more information, please contact :
Peter Andrews or Carolyn Trifonoff
Riverland Special School
50a Burgess Dve Berri SA 5343
Phone: 08 85821258 Fax: 08 85823215
Email: dl.0962_info@schools.sa.edu.au



Riverland Special School Policy Statement on Bullying & Harassment

We all have the right to be safe.

Bullying and harassment are not tolerated at the Riverland Special School



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and Child Development

At the Riverland Special School

We believe that -

- We all have the right to be safe.
- We can help ourselves to be safe by talking to people we trust.
- We can help others to be safe by talking to people we trust.

Our school is strongly committed to child and youth protection, safety and wellbeing as demonstrated

- in our Child Protection Curriculum *Child & Adult Protection Studies (C.A.P.S.)*, which is taught across the school.
- by having our students actively involved in hazard reporting as part of W.H.S.
- by all staff ringing the *Child Abuse Hotline (131478)*, when they have concerns re *Mandatory Reporting* issues.
- by weekly *Student Welbeing* reports at staff meetings.
- by open communication between teachers and parents.
- by explaining the difference between *dobbing* and *telling*.

“Dobbing is when you want to get someone into trouble”

“Telling is when you want to get someone out of trouble.”

What is Bullying?

Bullying and harassment are deliberate and repeated actions towards others, which involve the misuse of power.

These actions

- are intended to cause fear, distress, intimidation and/or harm to another.
- may be physical, verbal, written, direct or indirect.
- are conducted by a more powerful person or group and;
- are directed against a less powerful individual, who is unable to effectively resist.

Harassment often focuses on the gender, religious beliefs, racial background, cultural differences, or sexuality of others.

EXAMPLES OF BULLYING

PHYSICAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hitting, punching, slapping, kicking, pushing, strangling, biting, spitting, pinching, scratching. • Throwing things at someone. • Getting someone to harm another person.
VERBAL WRITTEN CYBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean & hurtful name calling & teasing • Spreading nasty rumours about someone. • Trying to get other students to dislike someone. • Demanding money or possessions. • Hurtful, threatening or obscene text messages, letters, phone calls or emails. • Harassing, humiliating, embarrassing or persistently making fun of someone.
OTHER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forcing another to commit offences eg stealing, property damage etc. • Threatening or obscene gestures. • Deliberate exclusion of another from a group or activity. • Removing, hiding or damaging others' property.
Sexual, racial, religious harassment	

What strategies does R.S.S use to discourage bullying

- All students are encouraged to use **THE STEPS** when dealing with incidents of teasing, harassment or non-violent bullying.

STEP 1 - Tell the person firmly

“STOP IT! I DON'T LIKE IT!”

STEP 2 - If the bullying/teasing continues, tell a staff member and/or get help to fill out a **STUDENT INCIDENT REPORT**

- For physical bullying or violence **GO STRAIGHT TO STEP 2 - TELL and STUDENT INCIDENT REPORT**
- Students are also encouraged to tell staff when they see something unsafe or “not quite right” happening in the school grounds or on the buses to or from school.
- Yard duty teachers wear fluorescent orange vests so that they can be quickly located by students.
- All students have at least one session of C.A.P.S., each week.
- The bystander attitude of watching bullying behaviour, without doing anything about it, is discouraged.
- Students are encouraged to report bullying behaviours, straight away, by telling a trusted adult as soon as possible.
- Students are encouraged to be loudly vocal, if they are bullied or harassed.
- All staff treat reports of bullying as serious and will respond as soon as possible when following up incidents.