



University High School Bullying Prevention Policy (short version)

What is Bullying

Bullying is the ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical, or social behaviour that causes harm. It can happen in person or online and may involve physical aggression, verbal abuse, social exclusion, or cyberbullying. Bullying has lasting effects on all involved, including bystanders.

Importance of Reporting Bullying

Reporting bullying is crucial for creating a safe school environment. It allows the school to take timely and appropriate action to stop the behaviour, support affected students, and prevent future incidents. Everyone in the school community, including students, staff, and parents/carers, plays a role in identifying and reporting bullying.

School's Efforts to Prevent Bullying

University High School implements a comprehensive strategy to prevent bullying, which includes:

- Promoting a positive and inclusive school culture through assemblies and social programs.
- Educating students about respect and diversity through educational programs and multicultural events.
- Adopting evidence-based programs like the Respectful Relationships initiative and the School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support initiative.
- Offering programs such as *Rage*, *Therapy Dogs* and *Flourish Girls* to foster student well-being and develop self-regulation skills.
- Encouraging bystander intervention and empowering students to respond assertively to bullying.

Who to Report Bullying To

Students experiencing or witnessing bullying should report it to:

- Coordinators or Heads of Sub-School
- Any trusted staff member, including teachers, well-being staff, or the principal class.
- Parents/carers with concerns should contact the Assistant Principal or relevant Coordinator at 03 9347 2022.

School Response to Bullying Allegations

When bullying is reported, the school will:

- Investigate the allegations promptly, involving students, teachers and parents/carers where required.
- Respond proportionately based on the severity and circumstances, offering support to all students involved.
- Engage parents/carers in the resolution process where required and possibly involve external parties like Student Support Services or the police, if needed.

Actions Taken to Stop Bullying

University High School uses a range of strategies to stop bullying, including:

- Behavioural support plans and safety plans.
- Restorative practices to repair relationships.
- Mediation and support group meetings.
- Disciplinary consequences, such as detention or suspension, for serious cases.
- Follow-up monitoring to ensure the issue does not recur.

This policy ensures a safe, inclusive environment where bullying is actively addressed, with a focus on education, support, and effective conflict resolution. For further details, the school's full policy is available online ([link](#)) or upon request .