WHYALLA STUART EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE – KINDERGARTEN

Anti-Bullying Policy Statement

At Whyalla Stuart Early Childhood Centre – Kindergarten we will provide a safe, inclusive, supportive and ordered learning environment free from bullying, harassment and violence.

The preschool will work with the preschool community and other services and agencies to support its children in being responsible and productive members of this community.

Bullying, harassment and violence are hurtful and destructive. Physical bullying can be seen.

Bullying and harassment and violence continue to be issues of concern for students, children and their parents/guardians.

Bullying, including cyber bullying and harassment and violence, is not acceptable in this Preschool and will be dealt with seriously and expediently.

Definitions

The definitions can be found, ‘Safer DECD Schools’ 2011. Additional definitions can be found in the ‘National Safe Schools Framework’ resource manual (MCEECDYA 2011, pp40-50).

Reporting and Responsibilities

The Coalition of South Australian school jurisdictions believes openly discussing with children regularly and developing a report and an action plan for the Governing Council are good ways of monitoring and acting upon student/child, parent and teacher concerns. A commitment to this in a policy demonstrates that this site is doing all it can to resolve the issue of bullying.

- All issues raised by children will be taken seriously and within the context of the age and development of preschool children. When a child or parent reports an incident, this should be taken seriously.
- Parents may find it helpful to write down the details of the incident as a first step.
- A face to face discussion is usually the best way of reporting an incident and, if they are dissatisfied with the outcome, they can follow up with a written statement with the request for a further meeting. If seriously concerned about the manner in which the preschool is dealing with an incident, a parent can contact the Regional Office for support.
- Reporting of an incident should occur as soon after the incident as possible. This gives the preschool the best opportunity to follow up the incident and intervene.

Responsibilities of Preschool Directors, Staff and Parents

The Preschool Director needs to provide to the Governing council updates each term in relation to bullying data and trends and any anti-bullying programs/initiatives in place or being considered. This report should be made available to the general preschool community via the newsletter and be placed on the sites website for easy access for parents.

- Develops, implements and reviews regularly the preschool’s Anti-Bullying Policy (annually). Surveys regularly all or a random selection for the preschools policy
- Ensure that as part of the Preschool enrolment process discuss Anti-Bullying Policy and practices including Behaviour Guidance Code. Provide ongoing training and development for teachers, & induction of children and families.
- Manage a whole site preschool change process with respect to ‘Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum’ is implemented across the site.
- Ensure that all parents have access to the DECD Bullying Harassment at School: Advice for parents and caregivers leaflet.
- Staff will develop and foster positive relationships with children and families.
Communicate and interact effectively with children and engage cooperative problem solving relationships to address issues of bullying.

Participate in developing, implementing and reviewing the preschools Anti-Bullying Policy, Curriculum and in-service training to effectively manage the incidents of bullying.

Critically reflect on practices and develop the knowledge and skills needed to manage incidents of bullying successfully.

Parents will keep the preschool informed of concerns about behaviour, their children’s health issues or other matters of relevance. Communicate in respectful manner with the preschool staff about issues of concerns soon after these concerns arise. Follow up on these concerns and if necessary, contact the Regional Office if the concerns are not resolved following intervention by the Preschool Director.

Children will support the preschool in maintaining a safe and supportive environment if they are respectful towards other children, staff and members of the community. Children participate in sessions regarding the preschools Anti-Bullying Policy, the Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum initiatives and program.

The State Governments response to the Cossey Report (Cossey 2011) requires site leaders to notify parents of the victim of violence at the earliest opportunity.

Further information:


This policy will be reviewed and evaluated regularly by both Staff and Governing Council and modified as required to ensure continued relevance for the site.

This policy was endorse by the Governing Council on: TBA

Chairperson: Bromwyn Thornton

Director: Lavenia Dadleh