

# Seventh-day Adventist Schools and Bullying

Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd is committed to providing a safe and caring environment that fosters respect for others. Bullying in all of its forms is not tolerated.



Bullying can take on many forms. Five kinds of bullying have been identified:

1. Physical bullying
2. Verbal bullying
3. Covert bullying
4. Psychological bullying
5. Cyber bullying

## ➤ RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

- Tell an adult, such as a parent or teacher, if they are being bullied or if they see someone else being bullied – both at school and on the way to and from school
- Help and support someone who is being bullied
- Avoid bullying others
- Come to the aid of anyone they think is being bullied

## ➤ RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

- Familiarise themselves with Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. policy on Bullying
- Teach their children traditional values – honesty, tolerance and right and wrong. Be prepared to learn more by attending information sessions
- Give their children ideas on how to solve friendship and social problems themselves. Children need opportunities to solve their own problems. This is part of becoming an effective citizen.
- Teach boundaries of behaviour
- Watch for signs that their child may be being bullied
- Support their child emotionally if they are being bullied – let them know it is unacceptable and will improve
- Speak to someone on staff at the school if their child is being bullied, or they suspect that this is happening
- Instruct their children to “tell” if they are bullied

## ➤ REPORTING OF BULLYING BY STUDENTS

Incidents of bullying by students can be reported to any teacher or Administrator by children and their parents or to the Principal or Education Director when the bullying involves staff of the school. Any bullying incidents that are dealt with will be recorded and this record will be kept by the school.

## ➤ RESPONDING TO REPORTED INCIDENTS OF BULLYING BY STUDENTS

Graded sanctions that support the culture of the school will be implemented at the discretion of the Principal. They may follow a system beginning with a verbal warning and extending through suspension to expulsion as is deemed to be appropriate in each individual case.

Depending on the procedures employed by the school, the Discipline Committee may be brought into play if the bullying reaches a third or fourth recurrence and will decide on the severity of the offence and action to be taken. At all points in the discipline process, parents/guardians will be consulted.