

Waikerie High School Safe School Policy



Respect, Responsibility, Trust, Achievement, Community

'All Australian schools are safe, supportive and respectful teaching and learning communities that promote student wellbeing' - National Safe Schools Framework

1. Statement of purpose

At Waikerie High School, everyone has the right to feel safe and valued. All members of the school community have a responsibility to ensure this happens. Waikerie High School is committed to providing an educational environment that promotes learning, free from all forms of bullying and harassment.

Any form of bullying and harassment is unacceptable and the school community is committed to addressing it. Each report will be taken seriously and thoroughly investigated in a supportive and confidential manner.

2. Scope

This policy is inclusive of all students, staff, families and community attending or connected to Waikerie High School.

3. Definitions

Cyber Bullying

Cyber bullying uses e-technology as a means of victimising others. It is the use of an internet service or mobile technologies with the intention of harming another person. Examples – Using e-mail, voice and text messaging, social networking sites, photographic & video images, etc. Other Information – Cyber bullying can be reported by going to the following website www.esafety.gov.au

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual conduct which makes a person feel offended, humiliated and/or intimidated. Sexual harassment can be direct or indirect and take various forms. Examples – Unwelcome touching, hugging, kissing, brushing up against a person, suggestive comments or jokes, requests for sex, posting filmed or photographed images or comments on social networking sites, etc. Other Information – Sexual harassment is a legally recognised form of sex discrimination.

Discrimination

Discrimination occurs when people are treated less favourably than others because of their race, sexual orientation, cultural or ethnic origin, religion, physical characteristics, gender, parenting or economic status, ability and/or disability. Examples – Teasing, spreading gossip, labelling or stereotyping, starting rumours, offensive gestures, etc.

Social Bullying

Social bullying is behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. Social bullying can be direct or indirect and take various forms. Examples – Forming groups to leave out, ignore and disrespect; influencing, encouraging or organising someone else to be in any type of bullying or harassment, etc.

Physical/Threat to Safety or Violence

Physical/Threat to safety or violence is the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against another person/s that results in psychological harm or physical injury. Examples – Hitting, pushing, touching, grabbing, looks, stares, facial expressions, gestures, spitting, taking or damaging property, etc

4. Preventative Actions

The Student Role

If safe to do so, students are encouraged to use their skills in being independent, resilient and proactive by taking the following actions;

1. Ignore and walk away. Instead of being reactive, try ignoring them. This may include not responding and/or walking away.
2. Be assertive, not aggressive. If the bullying and/or harassment continues, respectfully ask them to stop.
3. Report.
 - a. If after step 2 the bullying and/or harassment continues, or you do not feel safe to attempt steps 1 and 2, then you can report the behaviour immediately to a staff member.
 - b. A physical injury, or threat to you or another person's safety, needs to be reported immediately to a staff member.
 - c. If you require support from the Youth Worker, send a Daymap message to arrange a meeting.
 - d. Students can access www.esafety.gov.au for information and advice.

The Bystander Role

If present while bullying and/or harassment occurs;

- If safe to do so, respectfully ask them to stop.
- Report the incident to your class, home group or yard duty teacher, or a staff member.
- Be supportive to others and suggest they seek support if needed.

This enables staff to investigate the report to ensure all students are safe and feel valued.

The Staff Role

When staff witness, or have bullying and/or harassment brought to their attention, they are to address it as soon as possible. With most incidents, information needs to be shared with other staff members to enable the best possible support and follow up. Staff are responsible for the following:

1. Model school values.
2. Support students with skills and strategies for preventing bullying and/or harassment.
3. Document incident on Daymap.
4. Communicate to parent/caregiver.
5. Be supportive and respond to reports of bullying and harassment efficiently.
6. Follow Waikerie High School Behaviour Management Procedures.

The Parent/Caregiver Role

1. Model school values.
2. Recognise signs of change and/or distress in your child and be available to listen supportively to reports of bullying and harassment.
3. Be supportive and take an interest in your child's social life.
4. Discuss respectful and positive strategies for your child to deal with bullying and/or harassment.
5. Inform the school of suspected bullying and/or harassment, or the police if there is a concern for safety.
6. Report any outside of school incidents to police or www.esafety.gov.au/iParent if necessary.

5. Confidentiality

The details of reports of bullying and/or harassment will remain confidential unless specific permission from the complainant is granted, disclosure is required by law or where limited disclosure is required as part of the investigation process. All staff are required to follow the Information Sharing Guidelines.

6. Resources

www.esafety.gov.au/iParent