

The Hills Sports High School

Anti-Bullying Policy

Revised May 2011.

The aim at The Hills Sports High School is to provide all students with a secure, positive and nurturing learning environment where all are encouraged to achieve their 'personal best' within the framework of a Quality Learning Environment. Students are encouraged to become self-directed, lifelong learners who can create a positive future for themselves and the wider community. This complements the school motto "Strive for Success."

Rationale:

Public Schools are inclusive environments where diversity is affirmed and individual differences are respected. Students develop best in schools where teaching and learning occur in a context of student welfare.

Students at the Hills Sports High School have the Right to a quality education which meets their learning needs in a secure, ordered and supportive environment. The focus of a quality school environment is for students to learn and grow with confidence. The partnership between parents, caregivers, students, the wider community and the school is central to the success of this process.

Students at The Hills Sports High School have the right to expect that they will spend the school day free from the fear of bullying, harassment, intimidation and victimisation.

Statement of Purpose:

- Schools exist in a society where intimidation, harassment and victimisation occur. In response to this, the Hills Sports High School takes Bullying seriously and does not accept it in any form.
- All students at The Hills Sports High School need to be aware of and comply with the school's Code of Conduct.
- The Hills Sports High School regards behaviour which is inappropriate and which gets in the way of teaching and learning and which interferes with the well-being of students as unacceptable.
- All students, parents, teachers and members of the wider community have a shared responsibility to create a safe and happy environment free from bullying.
- Students, teachers, parents and the members of the wider community can expect that students at The Hills Sports High School
 - will be safe, free from fear of bullying, harassment and intimidation and that all students will be provided with appropriate support if needed.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is intentional, repeated behaviour by an individual or group of individuals that causes distress, hurt or undue pressure. Bullying can involve verbal, physical, social and /or psychological behaviour.

Three main groups are usually involved: The targeted persons, the bullies and the bystanders. Bystanders may be friends of the bully or students who are too afraid to say something. These students may or may not give verbal support, but they add to an imbalance of power.

Examples of Bullying:

- Physical abuse, hitting or being violent, jostling and pushing others;
- Harassment, making physical, verbal or intimidating actions attacking ones' gender;
- Homophobia and other forms of vilification;
- Social Isolation, ostracising, alienating or ignoring;
- Teasing, using put-downs, belittling others' poor abilities and achievements, ridiculing another's body appearance;
- Malicious gossip, spreading rumours about others or their families, dirty looks,
- Verbally threatening or frightening others, name calling, insults or putdowns;
- Interfering with another's property by hiding, damaging or destroying it;
- Racial discrimination, making degrading comments about another's cultural, religious or social background and exclusion from groups on grounds of gender, race and/or nationality;
- Intimidation and inappropriate use of emails, phones and other electronic media.

School and Community Responsibility:

A Right is something which belongs to you and should not be taken away by anyone. All students at The Hills Sports High School have the same Rights.

All students have the Right to attend school where they feel safe and their views and beliefs are respected.

Responsibilities are those things you should do without being told. You have responsibilities towards others and yourself.

Students have a responsibility to:-

- Behave appropriately
- Respect individual differences and diversity
- Follow the school anti-bullying plan

Parents and Caregivers have the responsibility to:-

- Support their children in all aspects of their learning
- Should be aware of the school's anti-bullying plan
- Help children recognise and respond appropriately to bullying behaviour.

Teachers have a responsibility to:-

- Respect and support students in all aspects of their learning
- Model appropriate behaviour
- Respond in an appropriate and timely manner to incidents of bullying in accordance with the school anti-bullying plan.

The Hills Sports High School has a responsibility to:-

- Inform students, parents, caregivers and the community about the school discipline code and anti-bullying plan.
- Provide positive strategies to respond to bullying behaviour, including responsibilities as bystanders and observers.
- Provide clear information to parents, caregivers and the community promoting appropriate behaviour and the consequences for inappropriate behaviour.
- Communicate to parents that they have an important role to play in resolving incidents of bullying behaviour involving their children.
- Follow up complaints of bullying, harassment, intimidation and victimisation.

Strategies:

As a school we will respond to bullying in the following ways:

- By promoting anti-bullying programs;
- Staff awareness raising and/or training in anti – bullying strategies and procedures;
- Through school assemblies and year assemblies, students will be informed of what constitutes inappropriate behaviour and what channels to take if they are bullied by any member of the school community;
- Through regular notices in the school newsletter;
- Creating information pamphlets for dissemination to students, parents and the wider community;
- Through posters and other visual reminders of the issue;
- Placing this policy on the web page (The Hills Sports High School site);
- Curriculum development to build skills for students such as group and social problem solving techniques, conflict resolution, etc;
- Education of all students regarding the definition, types and effects of bullying;
- Develop, conduct and analyse data through surveys to enable the implementation of appropriate strategies and procedures.
- Creating processes and avenues for students to report bullying incidents and issues;
- The utilization of programs such as peer mediation, anger management techniques and peer support to assist individuals or groups.
- Educating students about “bystander behaviour” and informing them of the penalties for such behaviour.
- Use of appropriate sanctions and consequences which are consistent with The Hills Sports High School Good Discipline and Welfare Policy;
- Periodic evaluation of the policy.

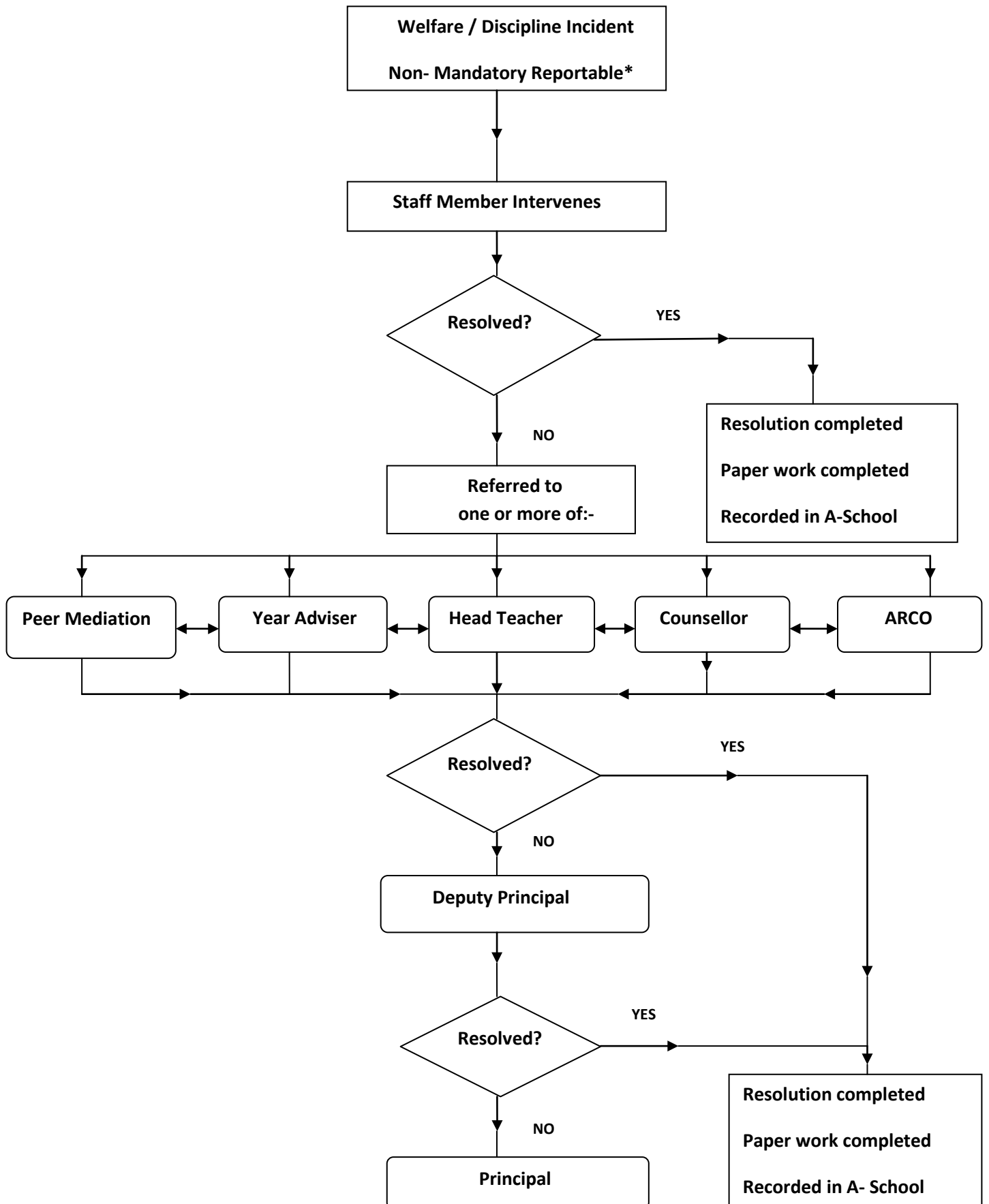
Monitoring and Evaluating Procedures:

The anti-bullying plan must be:

- Reviewed on a regular basis
- Plan must reflect current teaching practices
- The review will provide opportunities for reflection and renewal by:-
 - Gathering and analysing data
 - Reviewing patterns and trends such as student suspensions
 - Consultation with students, teachers, parents and the community.
 - On going review of policy and plan.

Reporting and Responding to Incidents of Bullying

Bullying can be reported by all members of the School Community (Stakeholders)



* All Mandatory notifications are to be made directly to the Principal