

Policy Name: Bullying Prevention and Response Policy
(from <https://www.bullyingfree.nz/>)

Policy Date: 19.6.18

Rationale or Purpose

The Woodlands School Board of Trustees seeks to take all reasonable steps to develop high standards of behaviour in order to fulfil the charter expectation and the requirements of NAG 5. The Board of Trustees seeks to foster and develop a safe, positive physical and emotional school environment that creates a climate of trust. Students, staff, parents and whānau share the responsibility for making Woodlands School a respectful and inclusive environment.

Policy Statement

We are committed to ensuring that our school provides an environment free from bullying behaviours. All members of our school community – Board of Trustees, school leaders, teachers, staff, students and parents and whānau should have an understanding of what bullying is; and know what to do when bullying does occur.

Definition

Bullying behaviour is not an individual action. Our school community agrees that:

- Bullying is deliberate
- Bullying involves a power imbalance
- Bullying has an element of repetition
- Bullying is harmful.

Bullying behaviours can be physical, verbal, or social, and can take place in the physical world or digitally.

Bullying is not an individual action. It involves up to three parties; initiators (those doing the bullying), targets (those being bullied) and often bystanders (those who witness the bullying).

Bullying Prevention

We recognise that real change happens when students, staff, parents, whānau and other members of the community share responsibility for making our school a respectful and inclusive environment. We will:

- Regularly survey our school community through Wellbeing@School or our own survey (e.g. by using Survey Monkey)
- Identify areas for improvement through the survey findings and develop a bullying prevention action plan

- Regularly promote our expectations and successes in preventing bullying (eg, in assemblies, newsletters, reports to the Board of Trustees)
- Hold termly professional learning and development on our understanding of bullying prevention and response
- Establish our Bullying Prevention Team to take responsibility for bullying prevention (to include staff, parents and whānau and students)
- Use a range of activities including curriculum based programmes to develop the ability for students to relate to each other (Positive Behaviour 4 Learning, Restorative Practices, peer mediation, social problem solving solutions, role playing)
- Promote digital citizenship throughout ICT and promoting safe use of technology

Bullying Response, for when bullying occurs

We recognise the importance of consistently responding to all incidents of bullying that have been reported in our school and ensuring that planned interventions are used to respond to these incidents and support all involved. We will support anyone who has been affected by, engaged in or witnessed bullying behaviour.

- All reported incidents of bullying will be taken seriously and followed up as appropriate
- An appropriate adult will support the affected students by: reassuring that they have done the right thing in reporting the incident
 - we will record all incidents on etap
 - using the assessment matrix and our PB4L flow chart, we will assess the level of severity
 - based on the level of severity, activate the response and action needed
- We will involve parents and whānau as early as possible and as appropriate
- All more serious incidents will be escalated to senior management and we will seek advice and involvement from outside agencies if needed
- We will provide appropriate support for targets, bystanders and initiators of bullying behaviour
- We will regularly monitor all incidents of bullying and identify patterns of behaviour.

Raising Awareness

We recognise the importance of good communication between home and school to promote consistent messages and to ensure that any reported bullying can be recognised and responded to effectively. We will regularly raise the awareness of our school community's approach to bullying and celebrate our positive school culture, for example through parent evenings, assemblies, class-based activities, and displays.

Our interaction with our wider school community will include reports to the Board of Trustees, school newsletters, and information (including the policy) on the school's website. We will make the policy available in multiple formats (in print, on the web and in school notices and newsletters) and ensure it is translated into other languages as necessary.

Evaluation and Review

We will review and revise this policy annually to ensure that the school's bullying prevention practices are recognised and celebrated. This will include an annual meeting to monitor, review and modify the policy and action plan (to reflect changes with the school, survey findings, incident reviews). We will track and monitor all bullying related incidents and regularly report this information to the school community. We will regularly gather data from the school community (eg, Wellbeing@School) and report on the effectiveness of this policy and Woodlands School community's commitment to bullying prevention and response.