



Katandra School Cyber Bullying Policy

Philosophy on Student Welfare

Katandra is committed to providing a safe, supportive and caring learning environment for all students. Each student has to be valued and treated with dignity and respect. They need to be given the right to feel free to express themselves and develop their personal goals, free of judgment, attitude or ridicule from others in the school community.

Discrimination, bullying or threatening behaviours, or harassment, are unacceptable and will not be tolerated within the school community. It is a primary responsibility of all staff at this school to ensure the physical and mental safety of all students at all times. Consequently, the enforcement of the Cyber Bullying Policy is of the highest priority.

Rationale

To ensure the appropriate use of digital technologies within the school community. It is the responsibility of all users to be aware of cyber bullying which is defined as direct verbal or indirect bullying behaviors using digital technologies. This includes harassment via a mobile phone, setting up a defamatory personal website or deliberately excluding someone from social networking spaces. (DEECD)

Cyber bullying will not be tolerated at any level, and consequences exist for individuals who choose to cyber bully others.

Objectives

- To promote and model the positive use of technologies
- To educate school staff about their professional responsibility including Duty of Care and the School's Cyber Bullying Policy (Staff are strongly advised not to engage in social networking with present or former students)
- Teachers to clarify with students (as appropriate) the school's Code of Conduct regarding the use of technologies e.g. ipad policy, internet usage policy
- Inform the school community members about cyber bullying including positive uses for technology, prevention and strategies to reduce cyber bullying and the importance of raising concerns and complaints regarding cyber bullying

- Students accessing technologies will be appropriately supervised
- To ensure that concerns and complaints are followed up and dealt with appropriately and in a timely manner
- To ensure that professional/appropriate support and respect is provided for the victim, the bully and their families
- To seek parental (family) and peer support and co-operation as appropriate

Implementation for Cyber Bullying Incident/s

- All complaints will be noted and acted upon promptly and professionally by completing a cyber bullying incident report
- Complainants will be offered the support of an advocate
- Staff will liaise with the school Principal, when a concern or complaint has been substantiated (in whole or in part), to determine preventative steps and timeline including an explanation, mediation, counseling, an apology or other course of action as soon as possible
- For more complex issues the school may be required to take advice from the Department
- The school will make every effort to resolve any concerns or complaints before involving other levels of the Department
- If a person is not satisfied with the action/outcome from the school they will be advised to contact the Department.

References

DEECD- www.education.vic.gov.au/bullystoppers

eSmart- www.esmartschools.org.au

Kids Helpline - 1800 55 1800 <http://www.kidshelp.com.au>

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on

Policy no.