Anti-bullying Policy

Bullying is a problem in all schools, and indeed throughout society in general. We, at Kempsey South Public School, are very concerned about any form of bullying and we work very hard to reduce the incidence of it occurring.

At Kempsey South PS we uphold the DEC definition of bullying which states:

**Bullying is a repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. Cyber bullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies.**

**Conflict or fights between equals and single incidents are not defined as bullying.**

Bullying can involve humiliation, domination, intimidation, victimisation and all forms of harassment including that based on sex, race, disability or gender.

Preventing and responding to bullying behaviour in learning and working environments is the shared responsibility of all KSPS staff, students, parents and caregivers. It is our expectation that all members of the school community contribute to preventing bullying by modelling appropriate behaviour and respectful relationships.

The staff at Kempsey South Public School are committed to providing an educational environment where students feel safe and happy and are able to reach their full potential.

Our teachers routinely focus on positive social interaction and explicitly teach the development of appropriate social skills. Specific lessons will also focus on the various aspects of bullying including what to do if someone is bullying you.

All staff participate in Student Welfare meetings where discussions are held around recognising different types of bullying, appropriate ways of responding to bullies and most importantly letting an adult know when bullying occurs. Our staff believe that if everyone works together and cooperates then the incidence of bullying can be greatly reduced.

Anti-bullying signage is displayed at strategic points throughout the school depicting the anti-bullying message.

As an integral part of our anti-bullying policy parents are encouraged to assist us in preventing bullying by reinforcing our commitment to high expectations through discussing the following points with their children:

- have regard for the physical well being of others;
- use appropriate language in communicating / dealing with others;
- look after and take care of all personal and school property;
- follow school and class rules and trying their hardest to do their best work.

A parent pamphlet explaining different aspects of bullying is regularly sent home and discussed in class.