Thuringowa State High School
A Positive Behaviour Support School (PBS)

Bully Prevention Strategy
To be read in conjunction with Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students.

Rationale
Education Queensland is committed to provisions that engage students in learning opportunities that enable them to achieve within safe, supportive and disciplined learning environments.

School community beliefs about bullying and behaviour

“Bullying” is aggression, harassment, threats or intimidation when one person has greater status, control, power than the other.

“Bullying” may include:
- Direct physical threats or assaults
- Social exclusion of one by another or a group
- Verbal insults or spreading rumours
- Sending of threatening or demeaning messages by SMS, Email, Internet
- Non verbal signals

At Thuringowa State High School, bullying in all its forms is NOT ACCEPTED and all members of Thuringowa State High School community have a responsibility to promote positive relationships, to prevent bullying to ensure effective discipline is maintained.

We are committed to “bully proof” our school.

Students and staff are committed to being:
- RESPONSIBLE
- RESPECTFUL
- SAFE

Educational Program Strategies

It is important that students staff and parents understand what bullying is, how it impacts on people and how bullying is responded to at Thuringowa State High School.

Our school uses the following educational strategies.
- Bully Prevention Program (school-wide Positive Behaviour Support explicit instruction)
  - Teach students a “stop” signal when they experience problem behaviour
  - Teach students what to do if someone delivers a “stop” signal
  - Teach students what to do if they see others receive problem behaviour
  - Teach students how to walk away and report problem behaviour
- Class Meetings
- Behaviour Management Support Teacher support programs
- Bully Workshops with support staff (STudents At Risk – “STAR” Team)
- Brochure to parents
- Intervention/counselling support from school staff
- Focus Activities for particular year levels (eg Brainpower, Mindmatters)
Prevention Programs

*Effective social skill and positive relationships act to prevent bullying.*

At Thuringowa State High School we promote effective social skills and positive relationships by:

- Teaching expected behaviour to all students
- Monitoring and rewarding students for engaging in appropriate behaviour
- Specific teaching and pre-correction to prevent bullying behaviour from being rewarded by victims or bystanders.
- Correction of problem behaviours using consistently administered continuum of consequences

Responses to bullying

Reports of bullying will be investigated and acted upon.

Responses to bullying might include targeted support for victims and perpetrators and/or sanctions or consequences consistent with the Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students.

At Thuringowa State High School we **support** victims and perpetrators by:

- Providing counselling support utilising members of Students At Risk Team (STAR) and/or external agency intervention
- Increased supervision of at risk areas
- Social skills programs targeting victims/ perpetrators
- Restorative Justice practices

At Thuringowa State High School the **consequences** for bullying may include the following:

- Detention
- Removal of privileges
- Family meetings with school Administration/Leadership staff
- Individual student Behaviour Management Support Plan negotiated and implemented
- Suspension and/or recommendation for exclusion where bullying is so severe no other form of consequence would be deemed adequate

Reporting and monitoring bullying

At Thuringowa State High School reports of bullying are taken seriously.

Students and parents may report bullying in the following ways:

- Directly to a member of the Administration/Leadership or teaching staff
- Care Head of Department
- Directly to a member of the Students At Risk Team (STAR)
- Sensible trustworthy friend

Reports of bullying collated and monitored by school staff and used to identify particular areas of concern for future action.
**Related legislation**

- *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*
- Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2006
- *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*
- Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000
- *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995*
- Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 1997

**Related policies**

- SMS-PR-012: Student Protection
- SMS-PR-021: Safe, Supportive and Disciplined School Environment
- CRP-PR-009: Inclusive Education
- SMS-PR-018: Information Sharing under Child Protection Act 1999
- SMS-PR-008: Family Law Matters Affecting State Educational Institutions
- CMR-PR-001: Complaints Management
- SCM-PR-003: Appropriate Use of Mobile Telephones and other Electronic Equipment by Students
- SMS-PR-024: Internet - Student Usage
- SDV-PR-001: Employee Professional Development
- The Code of Conduct

**Some related resources**

- National Safe Schools Framework ([ncab.nssfbestpractice.org.au/resources/resources.shtml](ncab.nssfbestpractice.org.au/resources/resources.shtml))
- National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools ([www.valueseducation.edu.au](www.valueseducation.edu.au))