

KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL



POLICY ON BULLYING

Rationale

Kerikeri High School actively seeks to provide an environment that is safe from all forms of intimidation. Bullying is unacceptable at Kerikeri High School.

Purposes

To define and identify features of bullying behaviour.

To contribute towards creating an understanding that bullying is unacceptable at Kerikeri High School.

Definition

At Kerikeri High School the following features of inappropriate behaviour define bullying.

Bullying usually has common features which may include:

- it is deliberate, harmful behaviour
- it is repeated over a period of time
- it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves
- it is directed at people because of characteristics that set them apart

Bullying can occur in four main ways:

- **physical; e.g.** hitting, kicking, taking belongings
- **verbal; e.g.** name-calling, insulting, racist, homophobic and personally offensive remarks
- **indirect; e.g.** spreading nasty stories, excluding from groups
- **cyber bullying; e.g.** text-messaging, emailing, and using other 'cyberspace environments', where verbal and indirect bullying can occur.

Bullying Prevention

The school will actively promote a bullying free message. This will include:

- Annual WAKA lessons with an anti-bullying message across the school.
- Regular Daily Notice WAKA messages about acting respectfully, including what to do if students experience or observe bullying behaviours.
- Health and Physical Education lessons, including Kia Kaha.
- Reminders of Respectful behaviour expectations in classrooms and Year Level Assemblies.
- Information for parents in newsletters about who to, and how to contact the school.

Guidelines

1. All members of the school have a responsibility to recognise bullying and to take appropriate action when they are aware of it happening.
2. Students and parents are encouraged to report bullying behaviour in confidence to a teacher, Year Level Dean, Deputy Principal or Guidance Counsellor.
3. All staff should treat any report of bullying seriously and take appropriate action depending on the circumstances.
4. Staff should first listen to the student or students and make such enquiries as may be necessary to clarify exactly what has been happening.
5. The person(s) should be assured that they have acted correctly in reporting the bullying.
6. Where bullying behaviour has been identified the emphasis must be on changing the behaviour of the bullying person(s), while providing support for the person(s) whom has been bullied.
7. Appropriate follow up should be discussed with all the affected people, for example involving a Guidance Counsellor and parents/caregivers.

Conclusion

Kerikeri High School is a school community that works to prevent bullying behaviour, recognises that bullying behaviour can occur, and commits to addressing bullying when it is identified.

Feedback

Feedback on this policy can be made using our [online form](#).