

WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL DO ABOUT HARASSMENT/BULLYING?

At West Lakes Shore School our teachers will teach you how to:

- Keep yourself safe.
- Be confident and get along with others.
- Develop strategies to deal with harassment/ bullying.
- Bounce back and be resilient.
- Listen to and support the person who has been harassed/bullied.

At West Lakes Shore School our teachers listen and:

- Support the person who has been harassed/ bullied.
- Work with the student who has harassed/bullied and get them to think about the consequences of their actions.
- Give consequences to students who harass/bully others. These consequences may include timeout, restricted play, take home or suspension (internal and external).
- Communicate with parents of students involved with ongoing harassment/bullying.

WHAT IF HARASSMENT/BULLYING HAPPENS BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL OR INVOLVES SOMEONE FROM THE SCHOOL WITH CYBER BULLYING?

1. Tell an adult at home and get them to contact the school as soon as possible on 8449 7255.
2. If possible collect printed evidence like emails or text messages so that the School Leadership can help.
3. **Do not respond to cyber bullying. Always keep yourself safe and supported.**

For more information about harassment please contact West Lakes Shore School on 8449 7255 or Email: dl.1246.info@schools.sa.edu.au

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS:

- DECD advice to parents/caregivers
<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/speced2/pages/bullying/>
<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/speced2/pages/cybersafety/>
- SAPOL (SA Police)
- www.kidshelp.com.au or free call 1800 551 800
- www.bullyingnoway.com.au
- www.cyberbullyingstories.org.au
- ThinkUKnow, the Australian Federal Police internet safety program www.thinkuknow.org.au
- Child and Youth Health
www.cyh.com
- The Cybersafety Help Button is available free on www.dbcde.gov.au/helpbutton



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Government of South Australia

Department for Education and
Child Development

West Lakes Shore School



Student Harassment & Bullying Policy

Everyone has the right to be and feel safe, happy and free from harassment or bullying at West Lakes Shore School

If you are being harassed/bullied then there is something you can do about it.

Harassment & Bullying Policy

WHAT IS HARASSMENT?

Harassment is behaviour that targets an individual or group due to their identity, race, culture or ethnic origin; religion; physical characteristics; gender; sexual orientation; marital, parenting or economic status; age; ability or disability and that offends, humiliates, intimidates or creates a hostile environment.

Harassment may be an ongoing pattern of behaviour, or it may be a single act. It may be directed randomly or towards the same person(s). It may be intentional or unintentional, i.e. words or actions that offend and distress one person may be genuinely regarded by the person doing them as minor or harmless.

WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is repeated verbal, physical or social 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 regarded as bullying. Bullying of any form or for any reason can have long-term effects on those involved including bystanders.

CYBER-BULLYING

Cyber bullying uses e-technology as a means of victimising others. It is the use of an internet service or mobile technologies such as email, chat rooms, social networking sites, discussion groups, instant messaging, web pages or SMS - with the intent of harming another person.

Activities can include repeated negative messages, sexual and racial harassment, impersonation, trickery, exclusion and cyber stalking. Cyber bullying may involve varying levels of severity, ranging from occasional messages to frequently repeated and highly disturbing threats to a person's life.

KINDS OF HARRASSMENT AND BULLYING

Here are some examples of ways you might be harassed or bullied:

PHYSICAL HARRASSMENT AND BULLYING

Includes deliberate hurting of any kind which is repeated after being asked to stop.

VERBAL HARRASSMENT AND BULLYING

Includes deliberate and repeated threats, putdowns, insults, teasing, name-calling and/or offensive remarks.

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL BULLYING

Includes deliberately, spreading rumours, excluding behaviours, ignoring or making fun of someone and/or stopping people from befriending others.

RACIAL HARASSMENT

Includes making putdown comments about a person's culture, name-calling because of race, telling putdown jokes and deliberately excluding people because of their race.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Includes inappropriate touching, sexual name-calling and jokes, teasing comments about the body.

CYBER-BULLYING

Includes unsafe or disrespectful use of an internet service or mobile technologies like email, facebook, text messaging and photos to deliberately harm and victimise another person.

BYSTANDER HARASSMENT

Is when other people observe harassment and bullying happening and choose not to speak up and try to stop it or report it to a teacher.

HARASSING AND BULLYING PEOPLE IS WRONG AND MUST BE STOPPED. YOU HAVE CONTROL OVER THIS!

WHY HAS THE SCHOOL ADOPTED THIS HARASSMENT & BULLYING POLICY?

At West Lakes Shore School....

We believe that: -

- Everyone has the right to feel and be safe and respected all the time.
- We all have the right to be treated as a worthwhile, important person.
- We all have the right to be communicated with and taken seriously.
- We all have a responsibility to ensure our own and others' safety.
- We all have the responsibility to communicate with others respectfully at all times and take their concerns seriously.

People who harass others stop them from getting the most out of school and this interferes with their learning. We want to make West Lakes Shore Schools a respectful place for all learners.

IF YOU ARE BEING HARASSED

STOP - Do not fight back using inappropriate behaviour yourself.

THINK and BE ASSERTIVE

DO - Use an assertive statement like:

- "Stop it I don't like it"
 - State how you feel and the behaviour that makes you feel that way, then state what behaviour you expect to be used from now onwards.
 - Use a strong and powerful voice to be assertive.
 - Get a friend to help you be assertive.
 - Get a teacher to help you be assertive.
 - Tell an adult like your parent/carer.
 - Keep telling adults until the problem stops.
- If you need to, arrange a time to speak to leadership.

If the harassment or bullying starts up again, go straight to a teacher.