



# Lambert School Bullying Policy

At Lambert School we take bullying seriously. This policy explains what bullying is, how you can report it and what we will do to stop it happening. The policy is underlined by the [National Principles for Child Safety](#) and [Tasmanian State Legislation](#).

## **A definition of bullying:**

Bullying is deliberate hurtful gestures, words or actions.

## **Kinds of bullying:**

**Physical:** Pushing, touching, invasion of personal space, taking/damaging possessions.

**Verbal/Written:** Comments/gestures, nicknames, put downs, name calling, laughing, threats, slander, letters, drawings, emails, social network sites, mobiles, text messaging, Snap chat, Facebook, cyber bullying.

**Sexual:** Deliberate and repeated touching, fondling or physical contact, smutty jokes or comments, provocative or insulting remarks, leering and ogling, persistent questioning about someone's private life.

**Racial:** Racist comments, religious comments, picking on people because of their race or religion, ridicule, name-calling, put downs, physical violence.

**Emotional:** Snubbing, ganging up, ignoring, put downs can also be part all areas above of.

## **At Lambert School we believe that:**

- Bullying is the systematic abuse of power.
- Bullying is not simply about difference. It may occur because of people's inability to accept and value difference.
- Bullying includes racist or sexual harassment or any other form of discriminatory behaviour.
- Bullying is everyone's business.

- Bullying may involve violence.

### **What can you do about bullying?**

- Tell the person who is harassing you to STOP.
- Tell them how you FEEL.

### **If they bullying continues:**

- Tell a teacher exactly what happened.
- The teacher will help you. They will:
  - Listen to you
  - Help you make a plan
  - Go with you when you speak to the harasser
  - Talk to your parents/caregivers about it too

### **Bullying grievance procedures**

#### **Parents**

When bullying happens at school you need to talk to the school about it. Before you go to the school it is important to find out:

- What happened;
- Who was involved;
- When;
- Where;
- Did anybody else see it, and, if so, who?

It is a good idea to write down what you find out. Arrange a time to speak to a teacher.

If the problem is not resolved, let the teacher know you will be speaking to the Principal. Arrange a time to

speak to the Principal.

If you are still dissatisfied, approach the Education Department

### **Staff**

- The teacher arranges a time to speak to all the children concerned.
- If the problem seems to have been resolved, the teacher proactively monitors the behaviour for the next few days, checking with the children involved to ensure there has been no recurrence of the behaviour.
- If the problem is not resolved, the teacher will speak to the Principal and ask for their support in addressing the grievance.
- If the problem is ongoing, notify families.
- If the problem has still not been resolved, the Principal is to approach outside agencies.

### **Our school approach to bullying:**

We listen and talk to the person who has been bullied and the person who has bullied others. We then use warnings, followed by firm graduated consequences.

1. Written and/or verbal apology with staff proactively monitoring ongoing behaviour.
2. Time Out with the Principal followed by Principal or nominated staff member proactively monitoring ongoing behaviour. Both Parents notified where necessary and encouraged to share in goal setting/action to rectify unacceptable behaviour.
3. Loss of Privileges.
4. Meeting with parents, student, teacher/ Principal.
5. Send home from school.
6. Suspension.
7. Exclusion.

It is important to note that these steps may change. At Lambert School we do not use a “one size fits all” approach. This is because each person is different and each incident of bullying is different.

### **Restorative justice**

Where there's a conflict between students we get them together and ask a series of questions that are along these lines:

To the first affected person or people:

- What happened?
- What were you thinking at the time?
- Who has been affected by what you did and in what way?

To the second affected person or people:

- What did you think when this happened?
- What impact has this had on you or others?
- What has been the hardest thing for you?
- What do you think needs to happen to make things better

Restorative Justice takes longer to work through than some of our more traditional practices - but our goal is to have the students back in class getting on together. We aim for making a deal between them about behaviour, with apologies and efforts to redress wrongs, with agreed consequences for breaking the deal.

### **What we do at Lambert school to reduce bullying:**

If an incident of bullying happens at Lambert School we use **prevention, intervention, and post-intervention** strategies.

#### **Prevention strategies include:**

- Using the curriculum to teach students about respectful relationships, civics and citizenship
- Developing programs to help students participate and have a say in their learning.

- Teaching students about violence prevention, conflict resolution, anger management and problem - solving and reviewing policies which promote student safety.
- Keeping Children Safe and Child Protection.
- Teaching for and about diversity.
- Providing professional learning for staff in collaboration with local agencies.

**Intervention strategies include:**

- Counselling students who have been bullied. A copy of the Grievance policy is provided if a formal report is made.
- Talking with parents or caregivers about the situation.
- Putting consequences in place for those who bully others.
- Teaching students to be better bystanders.
- Ensuring that all staff have the knowledge and skills to address bullying effectively and respectfully.
- Mediation is offered at all stages of the process.

**Post-intervention strategies include:**

- Monitoring the situation between the students to ensure that their safety and wellbeing are maintained.
- Talking with parents or caregivers about strategies.
- Reviewing our yard procedures to make sure they are effective.
- Reviewing and evaluating behaviour codes.

Sources

[National Principles for Child Safety](#)

[Tasmanian State Legislation](#)