

Marree Aboriginal School's Anti-Bullying Policy.

At Marree Aboriginal School we believe that:

- Bullying is the systematic abuse of power
- Bullying is not simply about difference. It may occur because of peoples 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 can involve violence
- Bullying can be verbal, non-verbal, physical or emotional abuse



If you would like further information about bullying or you would like to know anything else about our school, please contact us.

Telephone: 08 8675 8358

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Anti-Bullying Policy

At Marree Aboriginal School all students have the right to be safe.

Therefore we take bullying seriously. This policy explains what bullying is, how you can report it and what we will do to stop it happening.

A definition of bullying

Bullying can be deliberate, hurtful gestures, words or actions which are repeated over time.

Examples of bullying are:

- Having your possessions taken away.
- Being left out of games or conversations.
- Being deliberately hit or kicked.
- Being bullied by SMS on mobile phones or through the internet.

What can you do about bullying?

If you are bullied or you know someone who is being bullied, please report it immediately as it is your right to feel safe and make others feel safe.

Who to report it to

Tell your teacher, the principal or a professional counsellor in an outside agency. Tell your parents or caregivers too.

How to report

Tell the trusted adult where the bullying happened, how often it has happened and what you have done to try to stop it happening.

OR use a diary to record events and names as well as how this made you feel

When to report

Report the bullying to a trusted adult as soon as it happens. Do not ignore it. When bullying is ignored it may get worse.

What we do about incidents of bullying

- We will listen and talk to the person who has been bullied and the person who has bullied them.
- We will support the person who has been bullied with prevention and intervention strategies.
- We will put negotiated consequences in place for the person who has been bullying others. These may include time out, take home, suspension or exclusion.
- We will use these processes to help everyone involved to improve their relationships with each other.

At Marree Aboriginal 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 CONFERENCES

We use Restorative Conferences to build relationships and repair damage in a way that holds the perpetrator accountable and to empower the victim. Here are some questions we may ask:

To the Perpetrator...

What happened?

What were you thinking at the time?

What have you thought about since?

Who has been affected by what you have done and why?

To the Victim...

What did you think when this happened?

What impact has this incident had on you and others?

What has been the hardest thing for you?

What needs to happen to help make things get better?

To the Perpetrator (again)...

What do you need to do help make things better?

What do you think should happen if this continues?

What we do at Marree Aboriginal School to reduce bullying

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

Prevention strategies include:

- Using the Child Protection Curriculum to teach students about respectful relationships, and other wellbeing related topics.
- 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 developing policies which promote student safety at all times.
- Teaching for and about diversity.
- Providing professional learning and supporting staff in collaboration with local agencies.

Intervention strategies include:

- Counselling students who have been bullied.
- 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 know how to address bullying effectively and respectfully.

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 duty procedures to make sure they are effective.
- Dealing with hotspots in the yard.
- Reviewing and evaluating behaviour codes and policies.