



## Bullying Prevention Policy 2026

| Version No. | Date Review Due | Approved and Date Published | Changes Made                                                             | Author of Changes |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2           | 2028            | April 2026                  | Terminology corrected-(School Executive, Board and Restorative Practice) | JM                |

## INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Yallingup Steiner School operates as an educational facility for kindergarten and primary aged students and abides by all regulated health and safety guidelines for Western Australian schools, including the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

As a member of Steiner Education Australia, the School observes child development considerations as outlined by Rudolf Steiner, as they apply to Curriculum content and to students' capacity for behaviour regulation, sense of self and social interaction.

Bullying prevention plays a role in ensuring we build a safe, positive and supportive school culture that fosters caring, positive and respectful relationships between all involved in the school community.

This document focuses on bullying behaviour exhibited by students towards other students. Bullying behaviour exercised by adults towards students is considered child abuse. Bullying in the workplace is subject to Occupational Safety and Health regulations and the Staff Code of Conduct.

Compliance with Registration Standard 12, July 2022 – 'Management of Students' Behaviour' is expected of staff and outlined herein.

*12.1 All students receive positive guidance and encouragement towards acceptable behaviour and are given opportunities to interact and develop respectful and positive relationships with each other and with staff members and volunteers.*

*12.2 The school explicitly forbids the use of any form of child abuse, corporal punishment or other degrading punishment as defined and provides clear guidance to all members of the school community about what forms of behaviour management, discipline or punishment are permitted.*

*12.3 The administration of permitted forms of behaviour management, discipline or punishment conforms to the rules of procedural fairness and non-discrimination.*

## SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITY

This document applies to all staff and students at Yallingup Steiner School. Responsibility for review and update lies with the School Executive and Board of Governors.

School Executive are responsible for managing any Critical Incidents as outlined in the Registration standards relating to student behaviour.

<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/dl/pgrvqk>

## DEFINITIONS

Bullying:

Bullying is an ongoing misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal,

physical and/or social behaviour that causes physical and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power over one or more persons.

Bullying can happen in person or online, and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert). Bullying of any form or for any reason can have long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders.

Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.

Bullying involves:

- Verbal bullying
- Social bullying
- physical bullying
- cyberbullying
- bystanders.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Behaviour Management Policy
- Student code of Conduct
- Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Grievance Policy
- Staff and Volunteer Code of Conduct
- WA School Education Regulations 2000
- Keeping Safe Curriculum

## LEGISLATION

Commonwealth legislation relevant to bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence include:

- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*
- *Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) Act 1986*
- *Racial Discrimination Act 1975*
- *Racial Hatred Act 1995*
- *Sex Discrimination Act 1984.*

## DUTY OF CARE

School authorities, schools and teachers owe a duty of care to their students. This duty arises from the nature of the relationship and exists whenever and wherever the student is in their care.

The notion of reasonable care extends to ensure that Yallingup Steiner School provides a safe environment for all students and includes the development of procedures for the effective prevention of bullying.

## PROCEDURES

1. Students sometimes use inappropriate behaviours at school because they are not aware of the correct ways to behave. The promotion and teaching of positive

behaviours, rather than focusing on negative behaviour, allows children to see clearly what is expected of them.

2. Clear management and reporting of bullying incidents is important so that children understand there are consistent actions taken when they report bullying, that their concerns are treated seriously and that children who bully understand that their behaviour will be dealt with in a particular manner.
3. The primary aim of the school's response to bullying is to restore a positive learning environment for all students.

Bullying Prevention at Yallingup Steiner School is to be promoted and managed through whole-school positive behaviour support from all staff and conscious consideration of the following:

- *Explicit teaching and modelling of positive behaviour*
- *Fostering and promoting a positive school climate*
- *Utilisation of the Keeping Safe Curriculum*
- *Integration of social-emotional learning in lessons*
- *Helping students to identify trusted adults to aid with conflict resolution*
- *Proactive support and teaching of practical strategies for conflict resolution (Restorative Practices)*
- *Whole school opportunities for positive interaction*
- *Teaching bystander strategies*
- *Being prepared with appropriate, consistent, calm and respectful responses*
- *Shared understanding of bullying*
- *Respect for students' perspectives of their social interactions*
- *A focus on lasting solutions*
- *Specialist support*
- *Professional development opportunities for teachers*

There are many beliefs about bullying and ways of dealing with behaviour that have been shown, through research, to be far less effective than whole-school positive behaviour support approaches.

Responses shown not to be effective in responding to bullying in schools and not employed by Yallingup Steiner School include:

- *Zero tolerance and 'get tough' suspensions and exclusions in the absence of positive and preventative approaches.*
- *Unfair and inconsistent use of discipline*
- *Punishment without support*
- *Responses which disempower students*

The Yallingup Steiner School Behaviour Management Policy outlines procedures for positive behaviour management, with a view to preventing bullying.