



Reporting and Resolving Bullying (Procedure)

Bullying is a complex social phenomenon that occurs at all levels of society. Fairfield School takes an active stance against bullying. Bullying is defined by the Ministry of Education and social development experts as behaviour that is:

- repeated or ongoing
- with an element of power (physical size or social control)
- causing a person harm (physical or emotional)

Any parent with concerns about bullying is urged to contact their child's teacher, a senior staff member or the Principal. Typically the school's response is active and will involve:

- listening carefully to parental concerns
- speaking to the victim and reassuring them that they have done the right thing in reporting the matter
- speaking to the child suspected of bullying - gathering their perspective and reinforcing the school's expectations
- putting in place management systems that will minimise / eliminate the likelihood of the issue occurring again
- reinforcing with the victim the importance of reporting any such incidents in the future
- re-contacting the reporting parent to discuss outcomes and resolution
- contacting the parent of the child accused of bullying
- Following up at a later date to see if the matter is resolved.

Additional support or counselling (through our visiting Chatbus counsellor) is available for any child experiencing repeated negative social interactions or bullying.

The school is also interested in other ongoing social issues such as those that occur between friends. These conflicts, though a normal part of child social development, can be stressful on children (and parents) and the school can often assist by helping children to develop their relationship skills. Please contact your child's teacher for more information or support.