HARASSMENT AND BULLYING

Other Resources
You may find the following useful:
www.bullyingnoway.com.au

DECD Parent Helpline
1800 222 696

Kids Helpline
1800 551 800

Child & Youth Health
Parent Helpline
1300 364 100

The DECD website is:
www.decd.sa.gov.au

Contact
Australian Science and Mathematics School
Carpark 18
Flinders University
Sturt Road, Bedford Park
South Australia 5042
Telephone: +61 8 8201 5686
Facsimile: +61 8 8201 5685
Email: info@asms.sa.edu.au

South Australian Department for Education and Child Development trading as South Australia Government Schools, CRICOS Provider Number 00018A

www.asms.sa.edu.au
What is Harassment or Bullying?

It is deliberate and hurtful behaviour.

Harassment or bullying can take many forms and it can have a severe effect on students’ lives. It may occur face-to-face, through written communication or online use of social media, emailing, messaging, forums, instant messaging, SMS or webpages.

Bullying, including cyber bullying, harassment and violence, is not acceptable at the Australian Science and Mathematics School and will be dealt with seriously and expeditiously.

Harassment or Bullying may involve:

- Excluding others from groups or learning activities
- Preventing students from effectively engaging in learning activities
- Putdowns, threats, teasing, spreading rumours, name calling, sexist or racist remarks or other negative comments
- Unwelcome physical contact including pushing, shoving, fighting or any other actions designed to hurt or intimidate
- Rumour spreading
- Making derogatory comments or taunts about a person’s disability
- Interference with property including hiding or stealing
- Pressuring or trying to force someone to do something they do not wish to do
- Sexual harassment including unwelcome contact, personal comments of a sexual nature, or repeated requests to go out or have sex when the person has said no
- Cyber stalking, online impersonation or sending negative e-messages
- Sexting: which is the deliberate sending, requesting, or distribution of sexual imagery or sexually explicit messages, via an electronic device or social media platform. This can include the sharing of content, created by another
- Bystanding bullying: which is when a student who contributes to the act of Bullying, Harassment, Cyber-Bullying or Violence, either through antagonising, commenting, sharing, liking, or recording incidents using a mobile device.

Sometimes we aren’t aware that others are interpreting our behaviour as bullying and harassment. If we are asked to stop we must do so regardless of whether we think that is fair or not. Genuine compliments, friendship and overt concern for others are not harassment.

Symptoms

Students who are being harassed may show unexplained changes in mood or behaviour, symptoms of physical illness, depression or sadness, unexplained changes in study patterns or results and/or unwillingness to attend school.

What can you do if you are being harassed?

There is no single strategy that will work in all situations for all people. Choose the approach that you feel most comfortable with, but you DO NOT have to put up with harassment or bullying and ASMS staff WILL support you.

Develop a plan to deal with the behaviour and be persistent in following through on your plan until the behaviour stops, or you develop a new plan.

Options include:

- Ignore the behaviour
- Politely but firmly tell the person or persons involved that you do not like the behaviour and it should stop
- Consult with your parents or caregivers or someone else that you trust
- Speak to your Learning Studies teacher, another teacher, the Wellbeing for Learning leader, the Principal or a Deputy or Assistant Principal

ASMS Actions

The ASMS is obligated to work within the Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) School Discipline Policy.

School expectations are set out in the School Behaviour Management Code which is discussed with and available to students and other members of the school community. A range of responses may be appropriate depending on the nature, seriousness and history of the behaviour.

In general, a first response will involve confidentiality, support, documentation in student records and contact with parents or caregivers. Violent incidents or those involving sexual interference are subject to ASMS, DECD, SA Police and legal consequences.

If the behaviour continues further consequences, which may include formal suspensions or exclusion from school, will be considered and applied if appropriate.

Harassment of teachers, school support staff or other members of the school community will be subject to similar responses. The ASMS Cyber-Safety and Ethical use of ICT policy outlines school expectations and disciplinary action that may be taken should a student breach this policy.

What if harassment continues?

If initial strategies are unsuccessful, please contact the Deputy Principal or the Wellbeing for Learning leader.

If you feel that this is inappropriate, contact the Principal or the Southern Adelaide Region Office.