



Bullying Prevention and Response Policy

PURPOSE

The Te Kauwhata College Board seeks to take all reasonable steps to develop high standards of behaviour in order to fulfil the requirements of the **National Education and Learning Priority 1: Ensure places of learning are safe, inclusive and free from racism, discrimination and bullying**. The Board seeks to foster and develop a safe, positive physical and emotional school environment that creates a climate of trust. Students, staff, parents and whaanau share the responsibility for making Te Kauwhata College a respectful and inclusive environment.

GUIDELINES

Definition: The following factors can be used to identify bullying:

- Bullying is deliberate
- Bullying involves a power imbalance
- Bullying has an element of repetition
- Bullying is harmful.

Bullying behaviours can be physical, verbal, or social, and can take place in the physical world or digitally.

Bullying is not an individual action. It involves up to three parties; initiators (those doing the bullying), targets (those being bullied) and often bystanders (those who witness the bullying).

Bullying Prevention

- Identify areas for improvement through regular review.
- Regularly promote our expectations (eg, in assemblies, website and Facebook, and reports to the Board).
- Undertake professional learning and development on our understanding of bullying prevention and response through staff meetings (including parent meetings).
- Use a range of activities including curriculum and values-based programmes to develop the ability for students to relate positively to each other.

Te Kauwhata College

- Promote digital citizenship and the safe use of technology (through our ICT User Agreements).
- We will celebrate our positive school culture, through communications with whaanau (which includes email notices, Facebook and website posts, parent evenings), and our school assemblies and class-based activities.

Bullying Response

- All reported incidents of bullying will be responded to and an intervention plan implemented.
- We will provide appropriate support for all affected students, including witnesses, bystanders and initiators of bullying behaviour.
- We will involve parents and whaanau as early as possible and as appropriate.
- All more serious incidents will be escalated to senior management, and we will seek advice and involvement from outside agencies.

Raising Awareness

We recognise the importance of good communication between home and school to address any incidents of bullying promptly and effectively.

Information for the wider school community (including the policy) is on the school's website, or available at school.

Evaluation and Review

The school will review incidents of bullying and identify patterns of behaviour, and report to the Board at regular meetings.

Reviewed: May 2025

Next Review: May 2028