

# DRURY SCHOOL: Policy 5.14 – Socially Safe School

## **Rationale:**

Schools are required to provide a safe physical and emotional environment (NAGS 5).  
Stopping bullying is everyone's responsibility.

## **Purposes:**

To recognise the extent and impact of bullying in our school and to take steps to reduce its incidence as much as possible.

## **Guidelines:**

1. We need to develop a **common understanding** of what bullying is.

Bullying usually has four common features -

- It is deliberate, hurtful behaviour
- It is repeated
- It is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves
- The bully has and exercises power over the victim.

There are four main types of bullying -

- **Physical:** hitting, kicking, taking belongings etc
- **Verbal:** name-calling, insulting, racist remarks etc
- **Indirect/emotional:** spreading nasty stories, excluding from groups etc
- **Cyber bullying:** including TXT bullying and bullying over the internet/social media

2. Bullies need help to change their behaviour. Victims need support. Every pupil has the right to a safe school and the responsibility to stop bullying.

3. Teachers should take immediate action when a bullying incident is revealed. The problem is the bullying behaviour, not the victim.

- Intervene immediately to stop the abuse or harassment.
- Provide support for the victim.
- Make the peer group aware and ask them to help the victim.
- Isolate the bullying behaviour - 'on the spot'.
- Red card/Yellow card as required.
- Seek an ongoing programme aimed at developing pro-social skills if necessary.

4. A whole school approach to reduce bullying works best. Programmes and initiatives in our school which complement an anti-bullying approach include -

- Health /Social Sciences topics
- Positive Learning Zone
- The Virtues Project
- House system / Year 8 leadership
- Keeping Ourselves Safe and
- Kia Kaha (in conjunction with the NZ Police Youth Education Services)

5. Teachers are responsible for maintaining a safe, supportive environment where bad behaviour is not tolerated and bullying is recognised, publicly condemned and dealt with i.e. a safe classroom is the most effective way of developing a positive learning environment.
6. By developing a '**telling environment**', pupils learn that the telling will result in a fair resolution and will trust the adults with information about bad behaviour.
7. Provide a safe place e.g. the office or other location in school as directed by teacher, for students who feel vulnerable, to go.
8. Advertise the Internet site – [netsafe.co.nz](http://netsafe.co.nz), [www.hectorsworld.com](http://www.hectorsworld.com) and Freephone 0800 NOBULLY (0800 66 28 55) information line. They contain essential information for at risk pupils. Also 0800 543 743 – Kidzline.
9. When a physical assault takes place, the Principal may deem it necessary to report the incident to the Youth Aid Officers, Papakura Police.