Kate Chegwin School's Student Character Policy

Statement of Intent

Kate Chegwin School is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our students so they can learn in a relaxed and secure academic atmosphere. Kate Chegwin School's beliefs are based upon three virtues:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Readiness to Learn

Respectful:

We believe that everybody should enjoy our school equally, and feel safe, secure and accepted regardless of colour, race, gender, intelligence, religion, nationality, perceived gender identity or sexual orientation. This includes communicating with one another in a kind, respectful and appropriate manner.

We believe that property belonging to others needs to be respected and that permission should be obtained before using it if it does not belong to us.

Responsible

We believe that every student should attend school regularly and on time.

We believe that all members of our learning community (students, staff members and parents) are responsible for ensuring that all people in our school feel welcome and valued.

Ready to Learn

We believe that student success improves with their being prepared for class and through their being focussed and on task in the classroom. We will program for each student accordingly to ensure that all students can be successful.

Implementation

Through our administration, curriculum, our teaching methods and through our assemblies and school events we will continue to promote these virtues for all members of our Learning Community.

Kate Chegwin School's Student Character Policy and Bullying

What is Bullying?

The repeated and hostile or demeaning behaviour by a person where the behaviour is intended by the person to cause harm, fear or distress to another individual in the community, including psychological harm or harm to the individuals reputation.

Forms of bullying:

- Physical: hitting or kicking and / or taking or damaging personal property

- Verbal bullying: Taunts, name calling, put downs, threats or intimidation

- Social: Exclusion from peer groups, gossip, ganging up, group teasing

- Cyberbullying: Using technology to support deliberate and hurtful behaviours towards and individual or group of individuals

- Homophobic bullying: Bullying behaviours that are motivated by prejudice against the person's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. **Dynamics of Bullying**

The act of bullying typically involves three types of individuals:

- The **person exhibiting bullying behaviour**: The underlying motive is typically power or control

- **The target**: The person who is the recipient of the bullying behaviour

- **The bystander(s):** Those present during the act of bullying. The bystander has two options:

1. Tell the bully to stop and get help if necessary. Those exhibiting bullying behaviour like an audience. If the audience shows disapproval, the behaviour is discouraged from continuing.

2. Do nothing and/or join in: These behaviors both serve to support bullying and can be as harmful as the bullying itself.

Reporting bullying behaviour and Helping the School

Members of our learning community have a responsibility to report bullying behaviour as soon as possible to our staff members and a right to have the issue investigated and dealt with accordingly.

Student support of a bully free school

Students can help to eliminate bullying by:

1. Valuing student differences and treating others with respect

2. Being alert in places around the school where there is less adult supervision, such as bathrooms, corridors and stairwells and reporting it as soon as it occurs to a staff member

3. Talking to teachers and parents about concerns and issues regarding bullying

4. Working with other students, and teachers to help the school deal with bullying effectively

5. Being a good role model for younger students and support them if bullying occurs

School Responses to Bullying Behaviour

- Those exhibiting bullying behaviour may be counselled and will be given appropriate consequences. These may include, but are not limited to: Phone calls home, restorative justice in school, modified schedules or alternative working arrangements in the school. Other consequences may take place.

- In serious cases, suspension or even expulsion will be considered.

- If possible, the students will be reconciled.

- After the incident/incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.