



Safe and Friendly Schools Project – Harrisdale Senior High School

Project Description:

Bullying and cyberbullying are pervasive issues for Australia's young people and school communities. A whole community approach is required to ensure sustained change to student bullying.

Bullying is a learned behaviour that is unacceptable and can have long-term harmful impacts on students' school engagement, academic achievement, wellbeing, physical health, and mental health. However, bullying behaviours can be changed.

Harrisdale Senior High School is committed to being a safe and friendly school and enhancing our school community with a commitment to excellence, responsibility, respect and care. We embrace diversity and individual differences and nurture healthy relationships by valuing self, each other, and the environment.

Harrisdale SHS is undertaking a Safe and Friendly Schools project which focuses on a co-designing a whole school approach to enhance student relationships, prevent bullying/ cyberbullying and be responsive to all types of bullying/ cyberbullying behaviour and support individuals and the community.

Project strategies will include:

- taking an educative approach to enhancing student relationships and managing and preventing bullying;
- using an evidence and strength-based approach, tailored to the needs of Harrisdale SHS, using a capacity-building model;
- consultation with, and surveys of staff, students, parents/school community;
- using the results of the survey, and other school data, to better understand the unique features of the school and ideas for ways to enhance positive relationships;
- consultation and professional learning with the Student Services team;
- professional learning and consultation with the Leadership team;
- further developing explicit restorative approaches to respond to bullying incidents;
- incorporation of bullying prevention and student voice strategies within the curriculum, as appropriate;
- undertaking a process of consultation and review of current strategies and practices and developing a new strategy/policy regarding bullying prevention and management;
- parent/school community workshops and involvement in bullying prevention;
- sharing the school's approach to the whole community through various media e.g. newsletter, brochure, and assemblies.

This project is being managed by **Angie Ayers** and supported by **Coosje Griffiths**. Coosje is a former teacher and Senior School Psychologist and has previously worked at State-wide Services as Student Support Manager. She was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study bullying prevention with leading overseas academics for a three-month study tour. She has managed research projects, worked collaboratively with academics on various state and national research projects and authored/co-authored numerous articles including the Method of Shared Concern Project with Prof Ken Rigby. She has undertaken a wide range of roles throughout her career including developing state-wide policies and programs for student mental health and wellbeing, social and emotional learning (SEL), and bullying/ cyberbullying prevention and management.