



EVERY CHILD MATTERS

Bullying

Heathcote is a popular and oversubscribed school. We believe one reason for this is that it is a friendly and safe school.

What do we mean by bullying?

Bullying is where one or more students set out to hurt another student. This hurt can be caused by physical (hitting, punching, pushing etc) or verbal (cussing, taunting, threatening etc) aggression. Bullying can occur over a period of time or it might be a single incident. There is bullying in every school and all children can be bullies. We recognise this, we try very hard to do something about it. We don't have all the answers but we will try to deal with every incident that is reported to us.

What do we do about it?

- We make it very clear that bullying is not tolerated at Heathcote. This is part of the school code of conduct which is displayed in every classroom and in every student's planner. It is also part of the contract all parents sign when a student first comes to Heathcote.
- We encourage students to talk to the teachers about any problems they have. If we don't know, we can't do anything to help.
- We look out for any bullying behaviour. There are staff on duty before and after school, at break and lunchtimes.
- We will take action. We will inform parents if their child is being bullied or is bullying. Students have been excluded from school for bullying.

**Our message to all students must be
"Tell, Tell, Tell,
Tell!"**

Good advice for a student who is being bullied:

- **Tell an adult you trust what is happening.**
- **Get your friends to say NO to bullies.**
- **Stay with groups of people.**
- **Don't show you're upset.**
- **If you are in real danger, get away.**
- **Fighting back may make matters worse**

Most bullying incidents are "one-off". The important thing is to help the victim to make the bully understand what the effect of their actions has been. Together teachers and parents must try to let students know that they can get along without bullying or harassing others, and that they can gain the confidence to make friends.