# Parent Survey: Bullying at your child’s school

## What is bullying?

Bullying can happen at school, at home or online.

It is never okay and it is not a normal part of growing up. There is a new nationally agreed definition of bullying which all Australian schools now use:

Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening.

Bullying can happen in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert). Bullying behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time (for example, through sharing of digital records).

Bullying of any form or for any reason can have immediate, medium and long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders. Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.

The 3 main features of bullying are:

* the misuse of power in a relationship
* it is ongoing and repeated
* it involves behaviours that can cause harm.

## What is not bullying?

There are also some behaviours, which, although they might be unpleasant or distressing, are not bullying:

* **mutual conflict**- which involves a disagreement, but not an imbalance of power. Unresolved mutual conflict can develop into bullying if one of the parties targets the other repeatedly in retaliation
* **single-episode acts** of nastiness or physical aggression, or aggression directed towards many different people, is not bullying
* **social rejection or dislike** is not bullying unless it involves deliberate and repeated attempts to cause distress, exclude or create dislike by others.

To learn more about bullying, search for [**Bully Stoppers**](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/what.aspx) on the Department of Education and Training website.

1. My child is in year:

F

1

2

3

4

5

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10

11

12

1. Your impression of our school is… (tick the most appropriate)

that it is mostly friendly and caring

that it is sometimes friendly and caring

not friendly and caring

I don’t know

1. Do you think students at this school treat each other with respect and kindness?

Yes

No

1. Is bullying a problem at our school?

It’s not much of a problem and we don’t need to do anything extra

It’s a bit of a problem. It only happens sometimes, but we could improve things

It’s a big problem. It happens a lot and we need to do more about it

I don’t know

1. Have you seen our school’s Bullying Prevention and Support Policy?

Yes, I have seen it

No, I haven’t seen it

1. How do you think staff at our school react when they find out that a student is being bullied? (Please tick one box)

Most take it very seriously and try to stop it straight away

Some take it seriously and try to stop it straight away

Hardly any take it seriously and try to stop it straight away

I don’t know

1. Does your child feel safe from bullying at school?

They feel very safe all the time

They feel reasonably safe most of the time

They don’t feel safe a lot of the time

I don’t know

1. Is your child currently having problems with bullying at school?

Yes

Maybe

No

I don’t know

1. Do you know who to talk to or where to get help if your child is experiencing bullying or cyberbullying at school?

Yes

No

1. Do you feel satisfied with the strategies and programs that this school is using to prevent and manage bullying and create a respectful and safe school environment?

Yes

Maybe

No

I don’t know

1. Is there anything else that you think we could do or that you want to tell us about bullying at our school?

Enter answer here

## Helpful Resources:

[Bully Stoppers](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/default.aspx)

[eSafety Commissioner](https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents)

[Alannah and Madeline Foundation](https://www.esmart.org.au/)

[Raising Children Network](https://raisingchildren.net.au/?gclid=CjwKCAjw9aiIBhA1EiwAJ_GTSj6rDE7i3MvSuXEnEfr8f3sClkJKRIdEn_TsdgAXYpAqOamNJzKEzxoCDZgQAvD_BwE)

[Parentline](https://parentline.com.au/)