

Our Basic Belief . . .

Bullying - "We don't do that here"

All members of the Murtoa College Community have the right to work in a safe and supportive environment free from ALL forms of bullying. We are committed to ensuring a caring learning environment which promotes personal growth and positive self esteem for all.

The Bullying Policy aims to educate the school community about these issues and prevent bullying from occurring at our College.

Our school offers a number of student welfare support structures to assist students with any problems they may be having at school, including the Peer Support Program and the Health Program.

What are the signs?

Bullying can have devastating effects on students and the school community in general.

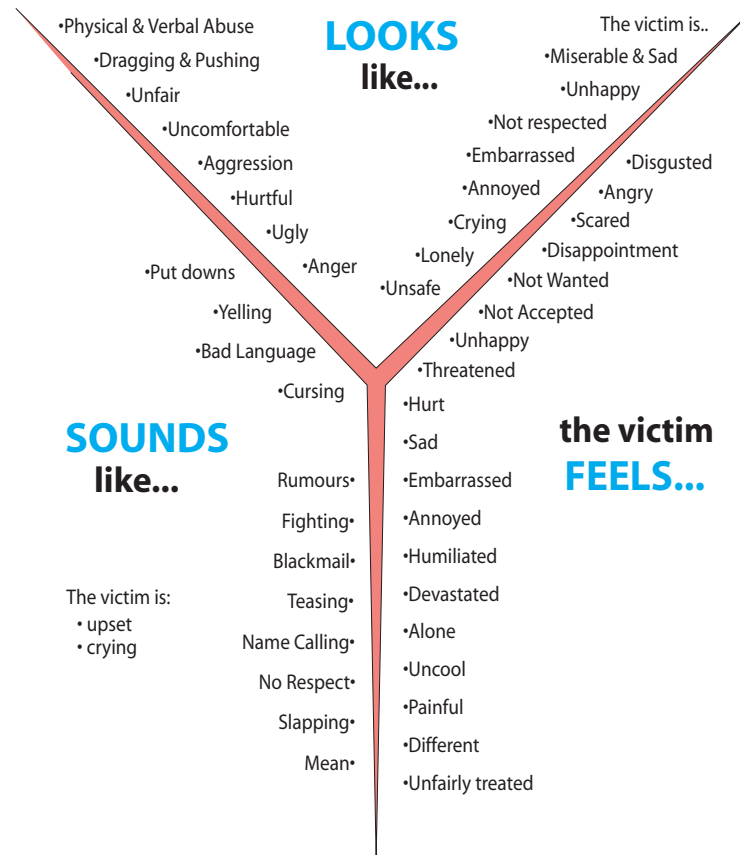
Students may exhibit or experience:

- fear of coming to school/truancy
- poor school performance
- loss of interest in schoolwork
- feelings of isolation/exclusion
- low self esteem / self confidence
- stress
- depression
- change in behaviour (eg: aggression or withdrawal)

To eliminate Bullying, we need the support of students, staff and parents.

What is Bullying?

BULLYING . . .



Bullying means . . .

- Sending nasty notes/emails/SMS messages
- Threatening others
- Vandalising other people's property
- Stalking others (following them around)
- Drawing nasty pictures of other people
- Swearing at others
- Breaking or stealing other people's things
- Using "put downs" including
 - ~ gay ~ faggot
 - ~ leso / lesbian ~ poof
 - ~ tool ~ stooge
 - ~ 'ana' (anorexic) ~ 'retard'

- Hurting someone's feelings
- Being racist
- Causing sadness
- Hurting others physically
- Verbal abuse
- Exclusion of others

- Blackmail
- Bossing others around
- Laughing at other people
- Starting rumours about others
- Name calling
- Once only or repeated acts

What to do if you feel that you are being bullied . . .

If possible, tell the person that their behaviour is not welcome and that it offends you. Tell them to stop. Nobody has the right to bully another student.

If you consider the incident to be serious or it has been ongoing, you should discuss this matter with a teacher with whom you feel comfortable. This may include a subject teacher, Year Level Coordinator, Student Welfare Coordinator, School Nurse, Assistant Principal or Principal. Ask a friend to go with you if you want support.

All incidents of bullying will be treated sensitively and acted upon in accordance with the procedures set out in the Bullying Policy. If you know someone who is being bullied, offer them your support and encourage them to seek assistance. False accusations of bullying are themselves forms of bullying and will be dealt with as such. Bullying sometimes occurs between students, members of staff or staff members and students.

NONE is acceptable at Murtoa College



Don't be embarrassed about asking for help. Bullies depend on secrecy. Nobody can do anything to help unless they are told about the bullying.