

AUTISM SPECTRUM AUSTRALIA (ASPECT)

Attachment 2: Safeguarding the People We Support Policy

Bullying Prevention: Aspect School Policy Statement

Aspect Schools are committed to providing safe and supportive environments that facilitate and enhance students' social, academic, physical, and emotional development.

Aspect Schools strive to create an environment where:

- Students are treated with respect and fairness by staff.
- Other students do not undermine this trust.
- Members of the school community feel valued and safe.
- Effective teaching and learning take place for all.
- All staff and students provide positive support and encouragement.
- Non-discriminatory language and behaviours are defined, modelled and reinforced.
- A culture of care is developed, in which bullying behaviour is not accepted and students feel safe to report bullying to staff.
- Any allegation of bullying is dealt with promptly by the school.
- Consultation and collaborative planning take place on matters relating to students.

Aspect Schools are required to and seek to exercise due diligence in duty of care responsibilities towards students, staff and the school community in accordance with both Aspect's [Positive Behaviour Support Policy](#) and [Safeguarding the People We Support Policy](#).

Aspect School Staff will seek to identify bullying, violent or harassing behaviours and will work with students, staff, parents or other individuals involved to offer the parties involved a safe and restorative response.

Aspect Schools uses a Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) framework to provide support in situations where there is, or there is a risk of, behaviours of concern. At our school, we understand that behaviours of concern happen for a reason and indicate a mismatch between what is being provided and what a person needs. Behaviours of concern are part of an interaction between an individual and their experiences, the other people in their lives, and the environments, communities and cultures they live in. Behaviours of concern may in some instances include incidents of aggression or bullying. Aspect Schools have a multi-tiered approach to support, which is used in collaboration with students.

Aspect Schools have procedures in place to record and identify bullying, violent or harassing behaviours and ensure these behaviours are responded to in a timely manner, ensuring procedural fairness for all parties involved. When behaviour puts any stakeholder's safety or well-being at risk, the school will implement appropriate measures to safeguard all stakeholders. In exceptional circumstances, this may include exiting a student from the school either temporarily or permanently.

Students and their parents and caregivers are to be encouraged to report bullying, harassment, and violence so that appropriate support can be provided. Information about how to make a complaint or notification is provided on the Aspect website, in the Parent Handbook and through School Newsletters and other communications. Aspect has

AUTISM SPECTRUM AUSTRALIA (ASPECT)

developed a communication tool to assist students with communication difficulties to tell the school about concerns with relationships, and social interactions, or to identify and report bullying, harassment, violence or abuse.

Aspect Schools will seek to inform the school community about methods of skill building, positivity and conflict management, whether within the school curriculum, school Newsletter, class emails or within general information sessions given to students/staff/parents.

Maryanne Gosling

National Director of Education, Aspect Schools