# WEST BEACH KINDERGATEN
## ANTI-BULLYING POLICY AND PROCEDURE

To be read in conjunction with our *Site Behaviour Code* and *Parent Concern Resolution Policy.*

An important curriculum goal at West Beach Kindergarten is that children at this age begin to develop strong social and emotional skills in order to be successful at school and life

We want children to be confident in their learning; to begin to develop friendships, be empathetic, appreciate and respect difference and to take steps towards self- control. Our daily interactions with children support this philosophy.

**We teach children that everyone has the right to be safe at kindergarten**

This means that children are explicitly taught that it is <u>never OK</u> to hurt, frighten, tease, harass or call others names.

We believe that this message needs to be reinforced at home to be truly effective.

Bullying can have both short and long term consequences for the well being of the victim, including withdrawl, anxiety and depression. Without intervention, bullies are likely to continue their aggressive behaviour which becomes harder to change as they get older.

**What do we do about bullying?**
- We work with parents to address concerns
- We have clear behaviour management practises, rules and routines
- We work with the children on a one to one basis and in groups to reinforce that hurting others in <u>not OK</u>
- We teach other strategies such as assertive behaviours eg. Stop, I don't like it…
- We ensure that staff are trained to recognise bullying and work together to manage challenging behaviours. Strategies used are appropriate to the child's age and understanding
- We ensure that children at risk are carefully supervised

**Our Anti Bullying Procedure:**
- If behaviours are challenging the director will notify parents and have an initial discussion
- Staff and parents will develop a plan to support the child both at kindergarten and at home
- We will review the identified strategies on a regular basis to assess progress towards desired behaviours
- We will seek outside support from other agencies if necessary

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