This policy is a component of a Supportive School Community and is consistent with:

- The National Safe Schools Framework. 2004
- State Government Anti-Discrimination Legislation.
- The Supportive School Communities Policy Framework 2003 – 2007
- DECS Antiharassment and Bullying Policies
- The SACSA Framework
- Coober Pedy Area School Core Values and Principles
- Coober Pedy Area School Creating a Positive Learning Environment Policy

Aim

The aim of this policy is to ensure that Coober Pedy Area School is a safe environment, free from bullying, for all members of the School community.

Definition

- Bullying involves one or more people exerting power or dominance over another or others.
- Bullying behaviour is deliberate, unwelcome, uninvited and usually repeated.
- Bullying involves behaviour which is physical, verbal, psychological or social/relational.
- Bullying includes a wide range of conduct that causes another person to feel embarrassed, offended, hurt, humiliated, insulted, ridiculed, angry or afraid.
- Bullying can have a serious long-term effect on the health and well being of young people.

Objectives

- To reduce the incidence of bullying.
- To counter the view that bullying is an inevitable part of school life.
- To create a supportive climate and break down the secrecy surrounding bullying.
- To provide staff, students and parents with options to respond to bullying.
Responsibilities

Students

If a student feels they are being bullied or has witnessed bullying behaviour they should:

- Tell the person that they are being a bully and to stop the behaviour.
- Support the person who is being bullied and request help from a teacher at the time of the incident.
- Report behaviour to Home Group Teacher or a teacher of student’s choice.
- Refrain from bullying others.
- Choose to talk to a School Counsellor, Head of School, Deputy or Principal

Teachers

If a student reports a bullying incident or a teacher witnesses incidents of bullying, they should:

- Listen and provide support to the target of the bullying by acknowledging the nature and seriousness of bullying behaviour.
- Find out the background and attempt to resolve the incident.
- Fill out a report form if appropriate.
- Refer the incident to a Senior Staff Member if necessary.
- Offer the student target the option of counseling from a School Counsellor or a Senior Staff Member

Senior Staff

- Provide support to targets of bullying.
- Record and monitor incidents of bullying behaviour.
- Put in place anti-bullying procedures as appropriate
- Ask the perpetrator to acknowledge the behaviour and agree to stop it.
- Arrange a Mediation Conference.
- Contact parent /s of the student who has been bullying another/ others
- Encourage target student to report similar behaviour if repeated.
- Keep Home Group Teacher involved.

School

- Dissemination of Policy and Procedures (Home Group Teacher)
- Inclusion in Curriculum

Parents and Caregivers

- Encourage students to discuss the effects and consequences of bullying.
- Encourage students to report any incidents of bullying.
- Contact the school if you are aware that any child is being bullied or suspect that it is happening.