

We are a school who has a strong anti-bullying policy as well as strong long and short term strategies to address any issues. We need strong parent and carer support to ensure that we work as a community to make us all as safe as possible, not only at school but in the wider community. We are not immune to bullying, but will do all in our power to stamp it out as a school and as a community.

## Anti-Bullying Policy and Action in Place

Donnybrook District High School endeavor's, to the best of our ability, to keep all students safe. On our website we have a clear, recent policy that highlights that we in no way tolerate bullying of any kind. The policy is clear: No Tolerance, and underneath that our actions as a staff and as a local school community, is that we do everything in our power to stamp out any negative behaviours.

To every parent and carer we emphasise the wide ranging efforts we maintain to minimize bullying and promote positive behaviours:

- Good Standing programme positive recognition being introduced in Semester 2
- School Chaplain and Youth Focus supporting students every week.
- Year 9 VET Man Up project in place Term 3
- School Psychologist always available.
- Behaviour Management review carried out annually to focus on any area of concern.
- Mentoring programme starts Term 3.
- We promote all students to **step in to stamp out bullying.**
- Anti Cyber-bullying lessons.



## Anti-Bullying in the Curriculum

We have a long term strategy of incorporating values, resilience, anti-bullying messages in Health Education in all year levels from Pre-Primary to year 10. This ensures all students are equipped to identify and deal with bullying. Mrs Duncan, in a very professional lead role in teaching and monitoring, took a survey of all students about the level of bullying at DDHS late Term 2 and the feedback was that there were no major concerns from the majority of students expressed across Years 7-10.

Facebook : a very strong awareness of the dangers of On Line Bullying is made. We ensure that ALL students get the clear message that they are responsible and respectful on Facebook. If they have abuses they have been advised to report it direct to parents, and or staff.

We strongly recommend that parents and carers are friends with their child's account to monitor any issues as soon as they occur.

For further information:  
[www.facebook.com/safety](http://www.facebook.com/safety)



## Parent Carer Input and Support Vital

We rely on the support of parents and carers to also help monitor their child at school, as subtle bullying can go unreported: if we know about it, we can protect your child more effectively.

I conducted interviews with parents regarding their child's report last week . It indicated the majority of students are travelling very well. Parents are happy with their child at the school across the year levels.

As Deputies we continually speak to parents and closely monitor parents valuable feedback in learning and in behavior. We continue to run an open door policy where you are all welcome to call us.

We certainly respect those parents and carers who have expressed their concerns over incidents which have happened. In no way do we hide from the fact that issues have happened. We will do everything in our power to ensure a safe school.



## Parent Letter

The attached letter arrived unsolicited from Mr Shane Atherton. We have attached this article to give balance to the GWN news report, and to address the silent majority who we strongly feel this represents.

**Report it!  
(To Parents or  
Teachers)  
Record it!  
Don't Support It!**

I am writing to express my response to the GWN7 news item that featured DDHS on July 1st. As a parent and former student I am outraged that GWN7 would deliver such an inaccurate portrayal of the alleged incident/s, the school and the students. Such irresponsible and fictitious reporting should not be delivered by a major news corporation such as GWN7 and it is heavily patronising to their viewing audience. They have misrepresented and smeared the DDHS in a major news item, for no other reason than to sensationalise an everyday school yard matter, similar to those that occurred when I was at the school 30 years ago. Such desperate reporting reflects the amateur level of news program that is served up to the regional audience.

I'm embarrassed to think this is the best we can expect from our largest regional news outlet. However those that make these decisions remain faceless, nameless and shameless. Ironically, GWN7 are certainly a great example of how bullies operate in society. Firstly they pick a defenceless target, try to humiliate them and claim superiority without the capacity for retribution. Hypocrites and cowards.....

My two children who are in secondary level at DDHS have also expressed their amazement at the way GWN7 reported the events at school recently. It has served as a good lesson to them that the truth can often be a casualty when small minded and negatively driven media outlets adopt a version of events that suits their simple and sub-standard purposes. My children are not aware of any underlying bullying activity that beholds the school as portrayed on the GWN7 news segment. Behavioural issues that staff and students contend with at times are often caused by circumstances that extend well beyond the school gates. The DDHS and its dedicated staff are to be commended for the way they deal

with issues that are brought into the school's environment. The school and its staff should not be held responsible for the anti-social antics that some students choose to inflict on the school community. As a parent I take full responsibility for the behaviour (good or bad) of my children before, during and after school hours. If we expect the school to continually portray high moral and behavioural standards then we parents must be setting this standard for our children to follow.

I would like to offer you and the staff of the DDHS my absolute support in the way you are educating our communities children, be they good, less than good or otherwise. I was a proud student of the school and my children happily attend knowing they are being well treated and educated, courtesy of the fantastic staff and facilities of the DDHS. Please know that many parents I associate with feel the same way, whether it is openly expressed or not.

The only harm done from this recent news article is to the reputation of GWN7 News and it's and reporting/editorial staff. The capacity to seek redress from them is negligible, so I won't be wasting any of my time doing so. I choose instead to send this positive message to reinforce to those that matter, that they are doing a fantastic job in sometimes difficult conditions. I hope this is the exact opposite reaction GWN7 were hoping to achieve when they decided to screen that totally flawed example of media reporting on their evening news.

Keep up the great work! I appreciate your efforts even more knowing what I know.

