

WELCOME

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The “No Blame” approach to bullying prevention

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Why bother?

- Bullying impacts on thousands of Australian students each day
- “No Blame” prevents further bullying
- It helps develop a positive, caring school community

Where did “No Blame” come from?

- Developed in the early 1990s
- It comes from the UK
- Developed by educationists Barbara Maines and George Robinson

The authors' claim

“A process which fails to engage the bully and makes no attempt to enhance the feelings of concern and understanding is unlikely to bring about any fundamental change in behaviour.”

Maines & Robinson, 1991, p.17

What is the “No Blame” approach?

- “No Blame” is a 7-step procedure for dealing with bullying episodes that focuses on gaining a positive change in the behaviour of the bullies.
- It uses restorative justice methods to involve the bully in fixing the problem he/she has caused, with the support of a small group of peers.
- Research shows that following a “No Blame” intervention, the bullying stops immediately in 80% of cases.

“No Blame” works because it is:

- **Constructive**
- **Informative**
- **Educative**
- **Restorative**
- **Empowering**
- **Positive**

What steps are involved?

- Step 1: Talk with the victim
- Step 2: Hold a meeting
- Step 3: Explain the problem
- Step 4: Share responsibility
- Step 5: Ask the group for solutions
- Step 6: Leave it up to the group
- Step 7: Meet them individually

Why it is effective?

- The victim is kept safe
- The group develops empathy for the victim
- Positive peer pressure is involved
- No punishment = no retaliation
- The group's actions are monitored

Modifying the use of “No Blame”

- Whole class interventions
- Half class interventions, e.g. girls/boys only
- Social problem solving discussions, e.g. routinely after lunch time in primary classes
- Adapted as support groups for achieving positive behaviour change, e.g. aggressive behaviour, disruptive behaviour
- Interventions with adults or on behalf of adult victims

Implementation issues

- Who will conduct the groups?
- How would the victim be kept safe?
- How would referrals be made?
- Who would monitor the group's behaviour?
- What communication processes will be needed?
- When and how would parents be informed?
- When would you consider the group had succeeded?

The “No Blame” approach

- can be used by both primary and secondary schools
- easy to use and simple to follow
- effective in stopping bullying
- helps develop a positive school

The “No Blame” Approach

Training is recommended and is available from Lyndall, either via email or face-to-face.

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for more information