



RACIST BULLYING

GUIDANCE FOR TEACHERS

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This information will assist educators to use the racist bullying video in the classroom to promote respectful behaviours and respond to racist bullying.

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Learning to value a diverse range of cultures, languages and beliefs helps students become engaged citizens in a multicultural society. The ability to interact with others with respect and empathy are important skills that assist students to develop intercultural understandings.

Creating a classroom environment that respects and values children and young people from all cultures and backgrounds establishes a strong foundation for students to learn these skills.

This guide provides practical steps to help teachers create an inclusive classroom, respond to racist bullying and support students to develop their intercultural understanding.

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Creating an inclusive classroom

Building a respectful and inclusive classroom environment is an important part of preventing racist bullying.

There are many ways that teachers can create a positive inclusive environment:

- challenging discriminatory language, stereotypes, behaviours and beliefs
- acknowledging and promoting different social, educational and cultural influences
- promoting connections and cross-cultural relationships between students through cooperative learning groups
- incorporating Aboriginal history, identity and contemporary culture into teaching and learning

- inviting speakers from a diverse range of cultures
 - learning from students and parents about diverse cultures and identities, and incorporating this knowledge in curriculum, programs, teaching practices and physical environments.
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Responding to racist bullying

If a student reports racist bullying:

- listen empathically and encourage the student to talk about what has happened
- ask the student how you can help, and who else they think may be able to help. This includes people who can provide cultural understanding, expertise and support
- reassure them that their feelings are normal and that together with their parents, friends and other school staff the racist bullying will be addressed
- talk them through the school policy so they know the steps that will be taken to make sure they feel safe and supported at school, and to show that racist bullying will not be tolerated
- do not downplay the seriousness of what the student is experiencing or how they are feeling. Racist bullying is not a normal part of growing up and it is not something to put up with or ignore

- racist bullying may be very subtle and providing explicit examples may be difficult
- ask the student how they would like the issue addressed. Give options about what can be done:
 - at an individual level with the students directly involved in the incident
 - at a classroom level to establish clear rules and expectations about respectful behaviour
 - at a school level to promote inclusive behaviour that values cultural diversity.

It is important that all staff are consistent in the messages to students and the actions they take when addressing any bullying. These messages and actions should be consistent with the school's bullying prevention process.

Using the racist bullying video as a resource

The racist bullying video may be used to promote respectful behaviours, and to respond to racist bullying incidents.

Schools may choose to show the video at a school assembly to highlight the importance of respect and inclusion at the school.

Teachers can use the video in class and follow up with a discussion or learning task. The video is helpful in developing a number of important skills, including:

- developing respect for cultural diversity
- considering and developing multiple perspectives
- empathising with others
- challenging stereotypes and prejudices.

Conversation starters for primary students:

- Choose one of the students in the video and listen to their experiences. Imagine and describe how you would feel if you were them.
- Choose one of the students in the video. What are the ways that you are similar to that person? What are the ways that you are different to them?
- What examples did the students give about the things you can do to help people feel safe from racist bullying? What other examples can you think of?
- A student in the video talks about how beautiful every culture is. Give examples

of the events, stories and ways of thinking that make a culture special.

- Explore cultural diversity in your classroom and your school. Think about things such as people, clothing, food, language, flags, artwork and books.

Conversation starters for secondary students

- A student in the video talks about the impact of TV and the news. How does media's reporting of an event:
 - impact on beliefs and attitudes?
 - impact on students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds?
- What are the things that the media can do to reduce racism and racist bullying?
- How do racial stereotypes and prejudices affect people from that cultural background? How do they affect people who are not from that cultural background?
- Discuss how diverse cultures have contributed to "Australian" culture.
- Identify and describe a memorable intercultural experience. How has this experience influenced your attitudes and beliefs and those of others?

Further teaching resources

A range of resources and guidance is available for supporting schools to learn about the cultural backgrounds of their students and build inclusive environments:

[Diversity & Inclusion: guidance for teachers](#)

[Intercultural understanding \(Australian Curriculum – General capabilities\)](#)

[Growing competence in working with Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures – resources and related information](#)

[Bullying. No Way! Website - teaching resources](#)

[Solid kids – Aboriginal Bullying Prevention resources](#)

The English as an additional language or dialect (EALD) program offers a range of [support services and curriculum](#) for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) students and their families both within and outside the school environment.

[Racism No Way – teaching resources](#)

<https://reconciliationsa.org.au/ideas-for-classrooms/>

The [SBS Cultural Atlas](#) – provides factual information about Australia's migrant populations.