



The Association of
Independent Schools
of New South Wales

Leading Effective Responses to Bullying

Build capability. Respond with confidence.
Support your school community.

Leading Effective Responses to Bullying

Creating safer and more inclusive learning environments requires more than just raising awareness; they are intentionally cultivated through a combination of culture, policy, practice and relationships.

AISNSW has developed *Leading Effective Responses to Bullying*, a new professional learning initiative designed to build on existing strengths by providing Independent schools with practical, student-centred strategies to reduce the risk of bullying and respond effectively when incidents occur. By fostering a whole-school approach, *Leading Effective Responses to Bullying* aims to transform not just how incidents are managed, but how every member of the student body feels seen, heard and valued.

Who Is It For?

This service is designed for school leaders who are ready to strengthen capability, respond with confidence and support their school community.

It is tailored for leaders such as Deputy Principals, Heads of Wellbeing and Deans of Students, who will engage with the learning, access the latest evidence and resources, and return to their schools equipped to lead a clear, consistent and effective response to bullying.

Participants will leave empowered to share their learning with staff teams and embed sustainable, school-wide practices that create safe, supportive environments for every student.

To ensure maximum impact and facilitate lasting change, schools are advised to nominate a minimum of two staff members to participate in the program. Each school is encouraged to include at least one member of their leadership team who can facilitate planning that involves decision-making, and keep the executive updated.

Why It Matters

Bullying, including cyberbullying, remains one of the most harmful and persistent challenges facing schools today. While not a new issue, recent student self-reported data shows it continues to have a significant impact on wellbeing and school culture.

The numbers speak volumes. According to the 2025 NSW Bullying Report over 172,000 NSW students reported experiencing bullying in 2025. Alarming, cyberbullying reports increased by 40% between 2022 and 2023.

172,000+

NSW students reported experiencing bullying

40%

Increase in cyberbullying reports

In response, AISNSW has developed *Leading Effective Responses to Bullying*, a new professional learning initiative designed to build on existing strengths by providing Independent schools with practical, student-centred strategies to reduce the risk of bullying and respond effectively when incidents occur. By fostering a whole-school approach, *Leading Effective Responses to Bullying* aims to transform not just how incidents are managed, but how every member of the student body feels seen, heard and valued.

Benefits For Your School

Through the *Leading Effective Responses to Bullying* initiative, participants will develop their capacity to:



Respond to bullying behaviour with confidence and compassion



Engage parents and carers in constructive, informed ways



Minimise the need for legal escalation through early, well-managed intervention



Support all students involved, including victims, bystanders, and those displaying bullying behaviours



Collaborate effectively with school-based support teams



Strengthen staff, student and families' understanding of bullying, its dynamics, and impact

Course Structure

Four Masterclasses (over six months)

During the professional learning sessions, participants will hear from experts in the field including academics and leading education law firms, collaborate to strengthen practice, engage in scenario-based discussions and apply evidence-informed frameworks to:



Build shared understanding of bullying and its impact



Practise applying policy and process with confidence



Strengthen prevention and response through a multi-tiered system of supports approach



Lead conversations that promote safety, trust and wellbeing

Practical Resources to Support Implementation

Each participant receives a suite of ready-to-use resources, including:

- Instructional videos
- Strategy templates
- Evidence-informed handouts and briefs

Optional Add-Ons

The following options can also be included:

Reflective Practice for Leaders

Group supervision sessions to support ongoing leadership growth and peer learning. Due to launch in Term 2 2026.

Tailored Consultancy

Schools may opt in for additional fee-for-service consultancy to support local implementation needs.

This initiative aligns with national and state anti-bullying priorities and supports existing AISNSW programs related to wellbeing, behaviour and safeguarding.

Delivery & Timing

Offered twice annually in two delivery cycles:

- Terms 1 & 2
- Terms 3 & 4

Each cycle spans six months and includes structured learning and optional support.

Delivery schedule for Term 1:

Day 1: 26/02/26	Day 3: 16/06/26
Day 2: 27/02/2026	Day 4: 17/06/2026



All learning is provided in a train-the-trainer format, enabling participants to embed new practices across their school community.



Embed bullying prevention and response within a whole-school wellbeing approach



Use evidence-informed strategies to support students with care and clarity



Lead courageous, compassionate conversations with students, staff, and families



Apply policies and procedures with confidence and consistency



Explore the social and emotional dimensions of bullying behaviour



Develop sustainable leadership practices that protect wellbeing for all

Why Choose AISNSW?

AISNSW is the peak body supporting Independent schools in New South Wales and a leading provider of professional learning. With a deep understanding of Independent schools and of the complex environment of teaching today, AISNSW provides educators and school leaders with sector-specific expertise, leading industry insights, and evidence-informed pedagogical practices that support high-quality teaching and learning.

Join Us in Leading More Effective Responses to Bullying

Register here:



Learn More

AISNSW is proud to take a leadership role in the NSW education sector in fostering safer, more supportive Independent school environments. We will work alongside you to ensure you gain access to expert networks and the most current research, further strengthening your school's approach to the complex challenge of bullying.

Leading Effective Responses to Bullying is aligned with both national and state anti-bullying initiatives, and complements existing AISNSW programs focused on wellbeing, behaviour and safeguarding.

As a signatory to the NSW Government's Statement of Intent on Bullying in Schools, we are dedicated to further developing this capability throughout Independent schools.



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Level 12, 99 York Street, Sydney NSW 2000

(02) 9299 2845 | aisnsw.edu.au

ABN: 96 003 509 073

