School to halt bullies

Courtney Crane

OBERON High is set to begin work on an innovative new anti-bullying program after receiving a $5000 state government grant.

The school will link with Deakin University and cyber bullying author Nigel Lane to educate teachers, students and parents about bully busting methods.

ICT Learning Leader Seven Vinton said the school planned to work with Deakin teaching students, who would be trained by Mr Lane alongside Oberon teachers in areas that included bystander action, assertiveness and anti-cyber bullying strategies.

The teachers and university students will be given the skills to deliver workshops to year seven students, which will include making a short educational film featuring an anti-bullying message.

“Bullying in general these days is often online and not out in the open where teachers and other students are likely to see it,” Mr Vinton said.

No bullies: Oberon High has a new anti-bullying program.

“We want to get on the front foot and educate the kids and teachers to put them in the best space to deal with cyber bullying.

“The initiative will also allow us to make connections with community partners like Deakin, meaning it’s not only our students and teachers who benefit but also those who teach at schools in the future.”

Mr Vinton said Mr Lane would also run a parent information session.

“Parents are often a little anxious because they’re not as cyber savvy as their kids, so we want to educate them about strategies to initiate conversations with their kids,” he said.