

ANTI BULLYING POLICY



**HILLVIEW INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
MAY 2016**

Statement of Intent

No child should have to experience bullying of any kind and each of us involved in education has a role ensuring it is not tolerated. We know that tackling bullying in all its forms is central to ensuring the safety and welfare of all members of the school community. We also know that it is central to achieving the wider objectives of school improvement, raising attainment and attendance, and promoting equality and diversity. Our school needs to be at the heart of a tolerant and diverse community.

The aim of the anti-bullying policy is to ensure that pupils learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. Bullying is anti-social behaviour and affects everyone; it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed will pupils be able to fully benefit from the opportunities available at school.

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. This means that **anyone** who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the repeated use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying is not a one-off incident of hurting someone, but is often planned, and occurs over a period of time. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber All areas of internet, such as email & internet chat room misuse
Mobile threats by text messaging & calls
Misuse of associated technology , i.e. camera & video facilities

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Objectives of this Policy

- All teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is unwilling to go to school
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or "go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has dinner or other monies continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated

Cyber bullying

Definition:

Cyber bullying is the use of Information Communications Technology (ICT) particularly mobile phones and the internet, deliberately to upset someone else. This can take the form of:

- Threats and Intimidation
- Harassment and Stalking
- Exclusion (of an individual from groups and sites)
- Identity theft, unauthorised access and impersonation
- Publicly posting, sending forward personal or private information or images
- Manipulation (pressure to arrange a meeting or to give out personal information).

Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to a member of staff
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff
3. In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
4. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
5. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour

Outcomes

- 1) The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place.
- 3) If possible, the pupils will be reconciled
- 2) In serious and persistent cases, exclusion will be considered
- 4) After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

Prevention

We will use a variety of methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- writing a set of school rules
- signing a behaviour contract
- writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- making up role-plays (KIDSCAPE role-play)
- having discussions about bullying and why it matters

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Bullying Online

www.bullying.co.uk

Kidscape

www.kidscape.org.uk

The Education and Inspections act of 2006, UK

The power to regulate pupils behaviour out of school works as a defence for school staff to confiscate items eg mobile phones.

Head teachers are specifically granted powers that enable them to police cyber-bullying carried out by pupils even at home.

Criminal Laws

Although there is not a specific offence know as cyber bullying there are criminal laws that apply in terms of harassment and threatening and menacing communications.

A person will be guilty of threatening behaviour if he or she:

- uses threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour or distributes or displays to another person any threatening abusive or insulting written material, sign or any other “visual representation”
- causes another person to fear immediate violence
- provokes the immediate use of violence by another person.

Hillview school will investigate any reported incidents of cyber bullying and reserve the right to confiscate any mobile phones or other means of communication and will notify the parents of any such incidents.

All incidents will be recorded by the school.