

USD #325

Anti-Bullying Policy

What is bullying?

“Continued intentional hurt to another specific person”

“Unprovoked, persistent, offensive, abusive, intimidating or insulting behavior, abuse of power which makes the recipient feel upset, threatened, humiliated, or vulnerable, which undermines their self-confidence and which may cause them to suffer stress”

Bullying can be:

Emotional - being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting

Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence (including electronically transmitted acts-internet, cell phone, wireless hand held device)

Racist - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures

Sexual - unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments

Homophobic - because of, or focusing on the issue of sexuality

Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumors, teasing

Our Aim:

To prevent bullying so we can create a safe, peaceful, and respectful atmosphere in and around school.

To encourage everyone at our school to take responsibility for stopping and preventing ALL bullying.

We want our school to be bully free, where people cooperate with one another.

We want our school to be a welcoming and happy place, where no student dreads coming into school.

How as a school can we prevent bullying?

By treating allegations of bullying very seriously.

By promoting positive attitudes towards each other.

By punishing bullies to show it is unacceptable and helping them to change their behavior.

By prohibiting retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying.

As a student of our school I can:

Expect to be treated with respect and to be safe from persistent bullying

If I see someone being bullied to help them not ignore it

Tell a teacher if I see someone being bullied

Become a friend to the person being bullied to show the bully it is not acceptable

Expect that serious action will be taken against me if I bully others

As a victim of bullying, there are a number of things I can do:

Expect help if I am being bullied
Tell my friends to share the burden
Tell my family
Speak to my teacher or principal
Put a note in the suggestion box

If I bully someone, I can expect:

My teachers to be aware that I am bullying
To be spoken to and dealt with by the principal
Help, towards changing my behavior and attitude so I can stop myself from doing it in the future
The incident to be investigated and appropriate action to be taken against me (verbal warning and parents informed, detentions, internal or external suspension) all dependent upon the seriousness and length of the incident to be determined by the building principal

Staff is expected to deal with the situation by:

Intervening as early as possible
Recording exactly what was seen or heard, pupils involved, date, time
Using the no blame approach. Hear both sides, there may be more to this than meets the eye.
If necessary, recording the incident on the appropriate form and returning it to the office.
Reporting it to the principal.
Speaking with the bully so they are aware that teachers know what is happening.