

Anti Bullying Policy

Bullying is wrong. There are no exceptions to this statement. It is every student's right to come to school and feel comfortable and safe.

Bullying is repeated violent and/or nonviolent, verbal and/or non-verbal, actions that cause fear, distress or harm, committed by an individual or group towards a less powerful individual or individuals.

Students who are bullied suffer the following repeated harmful actions from other students or groups of students. These actions may take place in classrooms, hallways, playgrounds, canteens, toilets, buses; in fact anywhere inside or outside school:

- Being pushed, punched, hit or kicked
- Being teased in a hurtful way
- Being called hurtful names
- Having bad things said to them or about them because of appearance, race, gender, religion, sexuality, abilities, or family background
- Being threatened with being punched, hit, kicked or other harmful actions
- Being shunned or left out of groups and activities on purpose
- Being forced to hand over money or goods by being punched, hit or kicked or through fear
- Being forced to do things they don't want by being punched, hit or kicked, or through fear
- Having lies or untrue rumours spread about them or having their secrets revealed
- Having bad letters, text messages, notes or emails written to them or about them
- Being targeted cruelly in blogs, web sites, diaries and hate books
- Being the target of cruel jokes, sarcasm, laughter, comments and put downs
- Having their property taken, damaged or hidden
- Having their friends turned against them
- Being threatened or forced to do hurtful things in order to become part of a group

A group of school stakeholders will plan, implement and monitor strategies to combat bullying. This permanent group will ensure that bullying remains a campus wide issue.

The school will generate pro-active measures to reduce bullying and create a supportive, caring and safe environment for all members of the school community.

All reported acts of bullying will be investigated and decisively acted upon. The school will encourage all members of the school community to report incidences of bullying. Students should be able to trust and confide in teachers, administrators, siblings and parents who in turn can help the student report the matter. The school understands that students are often afraid to report and will implement protective measures. The safety of the student who reports the incident of bullying will be addressed by the student being part of the decision making process as it relates to future action.

Depending on the nature and severity of the incident reactive measures will include peer mediation, counseling, parent involvement and punishment, ranging from detention through to expulsion.