



Anti-Bullying Policy

Approved

July 2014

Review Date

July 2016

OLD BUCKENHAM HIGH SCHOOL - ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

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

As a school we take bullying seriously. Students and parents and carers should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported. Bullying will not be tolerated.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying arises from a wish to deliberately hurt, threaten or frighten someone else. It can happen anywhere, at any time and usually takes place on several occasions.

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 –
 - misuse of the internet such as email, chat rooms and social networking sites
 - mobile phone threats by text messaging and/or calls
 - misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera and video facilities
- Exclusion isolation or non-co-operation and exclusion from social activities
- Bystander standing by and watching whilst other pupils involve themselves in bullying behaviour.

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. Students who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teachers and associate staff, students and parents/carers should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors and 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/carers should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.

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 should approach a child if they are in any way concerned.

A list of signs and symptoms is in Appendix A.

Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to staff
2. Incidents will be recorded and dealt with at the earliest opportunity. Parents/carers will be informed of the outcome of such incidents.
3. In some cases parents will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
4. If necessary and appropriate, the police will be consulted as part of the school's Safer Schools Partnership with the local police.
5. The victim will be supported throughout and given strategies to cope
6. Support will be given to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour

A flow chart of procedures in the event of a bullying incident being reported can be found in Appendix B.

Outcomes

1. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise.
2. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled by trained staff employing restorative justice techniques. This will always be the most desirable outcome as research is clear that such outcomes have the greatest likelihood of seeing no further incidents between students.
3. Other consequences may take place, as appropriate such as loss of social time, withdrawal from class.
4. After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place. Previous incidents involving the same students will be taken into account when deciding what consequences may take place.
5. In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered
6. **Wherever possible parents/carers of all students involved will be included in the process and will certainly be asked to support the actions of the school in a bid to ensure all students feel the incident has been dealt with fairly. Where parents/carers do not feel able to support the school's actions the school will continue to act in the best interests of all students involved.**

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) 0808 800 5793
Children's Legal Centre 0845 345 4345
KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4) 0845 1 205 204
Parentline Plus 0808 800 2222
Youth Access 020 8772 9900
Bullying Online www.bullying.co.uk

Visit the Kidscape website www.kidscape.org.uk for further support, links and advice.