



Ashfield Girls' High School

Anti-bullying Policy



Anti-Bullying Policy

What is bullying?

Bullying is “Deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for the victim to defend him or herself” (D.E. publication Pastoral Care in Schools).

Bullying is in contravention of children’s right to protection from all forms of violence, both physical and mental. It also infringes their right to education and to freedom from torture and inhuman and degrading treatment under the Human Rights Act 1998

The School Aims

The aim of the school is to provide each student with a secure and supportive learning environment for a programme of education which meets her individual needs and which brings them success and fulfilment in their school life and prepares them for life beyond school.

In seeking to fulfil this aim, the school will endeavour to

- Create an information rich environment where each student may reach her full potential
- Provide a pastoral care system which gives support and guidance at all times
- Promote self-confidence, self-respect, self-discipline, self-motivation, initiative and positive attitudes
- Promote strategies which enable students to develop a language for life and learning
- Provide a curriculum which affords opportunities for students to develop a range of skills which promotes intellectual, social, emotional, aesthetic, spiritual and moral growth
- Provide guidance which will prepare students for the challenges of changing patterns of work and leisure
- Forge strong links with outside agencies and with the local community which it serves

The School Ethos

“Each Different, Each Talented, All Valued”

Our Beliefs and Values With Regard to Bullying

1. We believe that all forms of bullying are unacceptable as they are inconsistent with the ethos and aims of our school.
2. We recognise the importance and value of dealing with the issue of bullying in a sensitive but open way within various areas of the curriculum.
3. The school has clearly stated the individual responsibilities of all members of the school community to be vigilant for incidents of bullying; to listen to all pupils reporting incidents of bullying and to apply the procedures laid down in the Anti-bullying Policy for investigating and dealing with bullying.
4. We value the role of the home-school partnership in dealing effectively with incidents of bullying.
5. We value the role played by the Student Council in giving our young people a “Voice” and keeping channels of communication open.
6. We value the teaching and learning in specific areas of the curriculum that develop emotional literacy and explore human rights e.g. P.S.E. Programme, Citizenship Programme, Reading Buddies Programme and Pupil Mentoring Programme.
7. We value the part played by the school website in allowing pupils opportunity to post problems on the discussion board –(this has already proved successful in bringing problems to the table).
8. We value the role played by the Parents and Friends Association in strengthening the community involvement in school e.g. “Parents and Children Learning Together Projects” and “Care For the Family Good Parenting Training”

Bullying will not be tolerated. It is the responsibility of everyone, staff, parents and pupils to deal with any incidents that do occur quickly and effectively.

Procedures for Dealing with Bullying

The school recognises that four types of bullying may occur:

- Physical e.g. hitting, pinching, throwing of implements to cause deliberate hurt.
- Verbal e.g.. name calling, taunting, intimidation and extortion
- Emotional e.g. gestures, looks, exclusion from friendship groups.
- “Cyber” abuse e.g. email. text messaging, photograph/video misuse etc.)

Taking Action

Pupils

Pupils should take the appropriate action, as set out in the Anti-Bullying Poster, if they are victims of or witness an incident of bullying.

- They should inform an adult as soon as possible.
- When a teacher other than the victim’s Form Tutor has been informed, then the information will be passed on to the Form Tutor.
- The Form Tutor will investigate the situation and speak to all the pupils involved as soon as possible.

Teachers

Teachers must act and, moreover be seen to act promptly and firmly to combat bullying whenever and wherever it occurs.

Teachers must help pupils to understand that

- They have a right not to be bullied at school.
- That it is the bully who has the problem, not them, and they are not somehow to blame if they are bullied.
- That they are not alone despite what the bully may have done or said to make them feel so.

- That they cannot – and are not expected to – deal with a bullying situation by themselves, and they are right to ask for help.
- That they need to speak out, and should trust the teachers to take their concerns seriously and to support them.
- That they have personal responsibilities – to tell, if they become a bully's target, and to help and protect any other pupil who is bullied.

Teachers must put strategies in place to monitor and support the “victims” return to class to ensure that no further incidents occur.

Teachers must also recognise the special needs of the bully who will also require further monitoring and support. (With agreement a “No Blame approach “ may be used in the first instance.

Teachers are responsible for informing parents of both the victim and the bully – the teacher must reiterate the school's stance on bullying and ensure that lines of communication are clear for both parties.

Teachers are responsible for logging an account of the event . (This is important to monitor any reoccurrence of bullying behaviour).

Teachers who are not content with the outcome or who need additional support in dealing with a bullying incident must not hesitate to contact the Year Head, Head of Pastoral Care.

Conclusions/ Statement of Intent

Ashfield Girls High School aims to create a safe and positive learning environment for all pupils.

Positive behaviour is the expectation and a system of rewards for good behaviour exists.(See school behaviour policy)

Every teacher needs to focus on fostering self-confidence and self-esteem in every pupil, in every lesson, every day.

(D.E. Pastoral Care in Schools)



A Specialist School for **ICT**



SSAT | inquire
Inspire
Innovate
Impact



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