

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Student Version



At Ockbrook School it is our aim that you should reach your potential in all aspects of school life. We promote a positive and safe environment where all may develop free from threat or fear.

No form of bullying will be tolerated.

Definitions of bullying:

Bullying is any behaviour which seeks to intimidate or humiliate and which is intentional, unprovoked or malicious such as to cause distress, unhappiness or insecurity. It may include:

- Verbal – teasing, insulting, spreading rumours, making racist, sexist or homophobic comments, mocking disabilities or religious or cultural differences
- Emotional – including deliberate silence, exclusion from group activities or interfering with belongings
- Cyber – including sending threatening or malicious texts or emails, posting information on social media sites, instant messaging or forwarding private emails without consent
- Physical – including pushing, kicking, hitting or other forms of violence including that associated with initiation rituals
- Sexual – making unwanted physical contact or comments of a sexual nature or pressurising another student to engage in sexting
- Encouraging others to engage in bullying behaviour
- Knowing that bullying behaviour is happening and not reporting it to an adult

The Effects of Bullying:

All bullying is damaging whether you are the victim or the perpetrator. Whilst bullying is not a specific criminal offence there are criminal laws which apply to harassment and threatening behaviour and the School will uphold these if and when necessary.

Cyber Bullying:

- You should not use the photographic or video taking capabilities of any device unless directed to do so by a teacher
- You should not share any images recorded within school
- It is unacceptable for you to use phones or other mobile devices to bully other members of the school community
- The School has a legal authority to act on instances of cyberbullying occurring outside the School where this has had an effect within it
- The school checks and filters digital content through a variety of network monitoring systems and devices
- The school takes a serious stance on cyber-bullying such as sending threatening texts/emails or posting embarrassing information on social networking sites

What the School will do:

- Provide a secure, caring and supportive learning environment in which bullying of any kind is seen as unacceptable
- Take appropriate actions to protect you
- Create a climate in which you feel that able to report incidents to a member of staff knowing that there will be a prompt and effective investigation

Education:

- The PSHE course deals specifically with the subject of bullying.
- This includes exploring experiences of bullying, reasons why it may happen, strategies for dealing with it and sources of support both in and outside school.
- Other subjects explore aspects of the topic and opportunities to discuss issues and ideas about relationships with others exist
- You will be made aware of this Policy on an annual basis

Pastoral Care:

- Staff will take every opportunity to build your confidence and self-esteem
- Staff will maintain vigilance at all times including those where supervision is less formal e.g. lunchtimes or social activities
- Boarding House staff will regularly visit dormitories at bedtime and after lights out and will spend time with boarders in the evenings and at weekends encouraging cooperative behaviour and monitoring relationships
- ***You should raise any concerns at an early stage***

Disciplinary Action:

- Sanctions may include a verbal or written apology, a restorative justice meeting, detention, class/group changes, fixed term or permanent exclusion
- These actions will be recorded and kept on file by the School.

What to do if bullying is taking place

If you are the victim of bullying you should not keep quiet about it. Speak to your parents, your Form Tutor, Nurse Tanser, your Pastoral Lead or any other member of staff.

If you are not the victim but know, or suspect, that bullying is taking place you have a duty to report it to an adult. ***Standing by and letting bullying happen is almost as bad as taking an active part in it.***

If you are guilty of bullying and realise that what you have done is wrong you should speak to a teacher and ask them to help you to deal with the situation. We will support you in modifying your behaviour. However, we will not tolerate bullying.

