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## **ANTI-BULLYING POLICY AT HANLEY CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

**Positive Behaviour Management Policy**  
**Equalities Policies**  
**Exclusions Policy**  
**Acceptable Use of ICT**

### **Our commitment as a school**

The success of Hanley Castle High School has been built on courtesy, kindness and mutual respect. We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a supportive and secure atmosphere.

Bullying of any kind is therefore unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell 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.

### **1. Objectives of this Policy**

- Bullying will not be tolerated.
- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors, 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 should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.

### **2. What Is Bullying?**

Bullying is when a person deliberately tries to exert power over another person, resulting in them feeling hurt, intimidated or distressed. Usually, it is a pattern of behaviour rather than an isolated incident.

It is also a form of discrimination where people are treated differently because of a perceived difference or prejudice. These perceived differences can include race, educational achievement, height, weight, gender, sexuality, accent or name.



Bullying differs from a falling out amongst friends. Of course this is sad, but differs from bullying because bullying is usually sustained, part of a pattern, and is deliberately designed to hurt and humiliate the victim. It is not a one off argument or fight.

**Types of bullying include:**

- 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 any technology such as the internet , mobile phones, social networking sites to hurt, intimidate or abuse

It should be noted that the school has the statutory power to discipline students for any misbehaviour, including bullying, during a school-organised or school-related activity. This includes misbehaviour in proximity to the school site and during the journey to or from school, while they are wearing school uniform or are in some other way identifiable as a member of the school.

In addition, it can punish misbehaviour, including bullying, in other circumstances if it has repercussions for the orderly running of the school, poses a threat to another student or member of the public or could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

### **3. Why it is Important to Respond to Bullying**

Bullying hurts and no one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving. Schools, and every member of the school community, have a duty to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

#### **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 that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- doesn't want to go on the school / public bus
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- begins to truant



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- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
  - starts stammering
  - attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
  - cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
  - feels ill in the morning
  - begins to do poorly in school work
  - comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
  - has possessions which are damaged or " go missing"
  - asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
  - has dinner or other monies continually "lost"
  - has unexplained cuts or bruises
  - comes home starving (money / lunch has been stolen)
  - becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
  - is bullying other children or siblings
  - stops eating
  - is frightened to say what's wrong
  - gives improbable excuses for any of the above
  - is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
  - is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated

#### **4. What to do if you are being bullied or suspect a student is being bullied**

##### **4.1 Students**

###### **If you are being bullied**

- Talk to an adult or someone in school you trust. This might be a teacher, teaching assistant, sixth former, the school nurse.
- You will be taken seriously, and what you say will be passed to your tutor or the Key Stage Office or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
- The bullying will be investigated, and appropriate action will be taken.

###### **If you see someone being bullied at school**

- If you feel that the victim is in immediate danger, and it is safe to do so, step in and take the victim to any adult or member of the sixth form and describe what you have seen.
- If you are in any doubt concerning your own safety, find any adult or member of the sixth form and ask for their assistance
- If the victim is not in immediate danger report the incident to any member of staff.



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- You will be taken seriously, and what you say will be passed to your tutor or the Key Stage Office or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
  - The bullying will be investigated, and appropriate action will be taken.

#### **4.2 Parents**

- If you suspect your child is being bullied (see 'Signs and Symptoms' above), talk to them to gather as much detail as possible.
- Contact the school and talk to your child's tutor or to the Key Stage Office.
- Do not let your child talk you out of contacting the school.
- If the bullying is taking place on the journey to or from school, or using any form of technology, please let the school know.
- In some cases it may be appropriate to refer bullying which is taking place outside school to the Police. However, the school will always attempt to resolve bullying issues beyond the school, and will cooperate fully with any Police investigation.

#### **4.3 Staff**

- Any member of staff who receives a complaint will listen to the parent and / or student(s) and will take the matter seriously. They should take brief notes of names and circumstances as necessary.
- The parent / pupil should be reassured that they have acted correctly in reporting the bullying.
- The member of staff will refer the matter to the relevant tutor in accordance with the referral system established in the Positive Behaviour Management Policy.
- The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
- The tutor will, if appropriate, listen to all people involved in order, as far as is reasonably possible, to reach the true picture.
- If the incident is serious, or forms part of a more serious pattern, the tutor should refer the incident to the Head of Key Stage.
- As laid out in the Positive Behaviour Management Policy (3.11) the Head of Key Stage will decide whether the incident should be handled at tutor level, Key Stage level or passed to the leadership team.
- The Head of Key Stage will generally be responsible for investigating the incident(s) as fully as possible, although other members of staff may be involved if appropriate.
- Action will be taken as outlined in the school's Positive Behaviour Management Policy, including a range of appropriate sanctions which may include contacting parents, the involvement of external agencies, an apology, isolation, fixed term



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exclusions, a Pastoral Support Plan and, if all strategies have been tried and failed, permanent exclusion.

- If appropriate the Police will be involved.
- Work will be commenced to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.
- Any bullying incident will be dealt with on an individual basis, and the school reserves the right to respond in different ways to different circumstances, while ensuring that consistency is preserved as appropriate.
- Data on bullying will be recorded and monitored carefully at a Key Stage level. Patterns and / or trends will be evaluated regularly and action taken as appropriate.

## **5. Follow-up actions**

### **5.1 The victim**

- The victim should be offered advice on how to deal with the incident or any possible subsequent incidents.
- Tutors should follow-up later to check on progress.
- If appropriate a referral should be made to our school counsellor or 'Time for You'.

### **5.2 The bully**

- After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with and any sanctions imposed, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.
- If possible, and appropriate, the pupils will be reconciled, using mediation.
- Further appropriate support may be put in place, including a Pastoral Support Plan if it is felt that the student is in danger of permanent exclusion.

## **6. Prevention**

- Bullying is dealt with as part of our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSD) and Citizenship course, and in related behavioural themes in all years, across all subjects
- Positive behaviour is encouraged at all times as an integral part of promoting a healthy school.
- PSD, and any lessons may adopt any of the methods below for helping pupils to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:
  - writing a set of school rules



- signing a behaviour contract
- writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- role-plays
- having discussions about bullying and why it matters

## 7. Care and Respect

As stated earlier in this policy, the success of Hanley Castle High School has been built on courtesy, kindness and mutual respect. We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a supportive and secure atmosphere.

The school's Care and Respect Policy, printed in every student's planner, states:

- Please be kind to others and make new members of the school feel welcome.
- Please respect each other's property.
- Please be honest and open about any incident of anti-social behaviour you have witnessed or experienced e.g. bullying, vandalism, smoking or drugs.
- If you are concerned please talk about it to someone you trust or write down what happened and give the account to someone you trust. You will be listened to and action will be taken immediately.
- In general: care for the environment – consider the needs and safety of others and yourself.