

Anti-Bullying & Online Bullying Policy

AIMS: Target Groups: Students.

Purposes: For students to be free of fear or intimidation whilst at school.

DEFINITION OF BULLYING

“Bullying is the repeated intention to cause unhappiness by being hurtful or intimidating, often towards those who are unable, or least able to defend themselves.”

Examples of this might be:

- Physical – hitting, kicking, taking belongings.
- Verbal – name calling, insults, racist remarks.
- Emotional – isolating others, tormenting, hiding books, threatening gestures, ridicule, humiliation, intimidating, excluding, manipulation and coercion.
- Sexual – unwanted physical contact, inappropriate touching, abusive comments, homophobic abuse, exposure to inappropriate films etc.
- Online/cyber – posting on social media, sharing photos, sending nasty text messages, social exclusion
- Indirect – spreading untruths about someone from social groups.

It is important to note that bullying does not have to be by students. It can be by staff, volunteers or visitors to the school (or elsewhere than in school).

IMPLEMENTATION/GUIDELINES

Bullying can be in a variety of ways as listed above. Staff should be aware of any signs of a student displaying unusual patterns of behaviour (i.e. aggressive or introvert tendencies) which are not the norm for that individual.

Students should be free from fear to talk with an adult about any concerns whenever another student is putting pressure on them by whatever means. Students must be given adequate time to talk. Staff must be prepared to listen.

Staff should relay these concerns, if they are deemed serious enough, to a senior member of staff who will take appropriate action.

Staff concerned must make full notes of the incident and what preceded it in each of the pupil educational files.

When deemed appropriate, a multi-disciplinary meeting will be held with the Head Teacher's consent to agree a common staff/pupil approach to a course of action.

The needs of the bullied student and the one causing the problem must be addressed.

Where appropriate, both sets of parents or guardians need to be informed and/or asked to come into school to discuss the situation.

In extreme cases, the Governors will have to be involved and the student may need to be given a short term suspension and the LA informed by the Head Teacher.

A student who is given a short term suspension may only return if they agree to a contract of acceptable behaviour being implemented.

ONLINE BULLYING

All of our students at Victoria Education Centre have the right to attend a school where they feel safe respected and can provide a conducive learning environment.

Online bullying is the use of any technology where a person is threatened/ feels threatened or is the subject of ridicule by any of the following means.

- Text message
- Picture/ video clips via mobile phones
- Phone call bullying
- Email

- Chat room
- Social networks
- Bullying via websites and blogs

Victoria Education Centre actively works to discourage and prevent online bullying by:

- Providing staff with knowledge to help them manage online bullying in school
- Teaching the students as part of their PHSE curriculum the risks of online communications and the consequences of their misuse.
- Having a filter on search engines to prevent access to unsuitable websites during the school day.
- Monitoring communications used on the school site.
- Systems in place to prevent student pictures taken not to be shared off site.
- To ensure the Policy is updated annually.

Staff responsibility

- To ensure they have read the school's policy.
- That they understand the policy and the actions that are depicted in the policy.
- To record written report of any cases noticed of online bullying.
- Monitor the safe practice and use of communication technology within the school.
- To be vigilant in recognising the signs of a victim of online bullying.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

This policy should be read alongside the Safeguarding Policy, online safety policy and the Positive Behaviour Management Policy and is in line with the National Care Standards Commission.

Training on Anti-Bullying/Online Bullying Policy will be offered in Safeguarding Induction and all staff will be updated annually.

Sally Darby – Team Leader & Anti-Bullying Champion Amy Hunt – Team Leader & Online Safety Ambassador	Approved by Governors.
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