

Greenwich House Independent School

Anti-Bullying Policy

Definition

Bullying is any personal attack or attacks, sustained or otherwise, repeated or threatened on another pupil involving either physical, emotional or verbal abuse, or a combination thereof, resulting in any injury, distress, intimidation or isolation of that pupil from access to a happy, secure and effective learning environment. It is often planned and most bullies are aware of the impact of their actions.

All alleged incidents of bullying will be taken seriously and investigated.

Bullying will be deemed to have taken place if the incident or incidents occurred on the way to or from school, during session times, on off-site visits (whether residential or otherwise) or during any event sponsored by the school in any place. Where bullying outside school is reported to school staff, it should be investigated and acted on. The Head Teacher should also consider whether it is appropriate to notify the police or anti-social behaviour coordinator in their local authority of the action taken against a pupil. If the misbehaviour could be criminal or poses a serious threat to a member of the public, the police should always be informed.

Cyber-bullying

The rapid development of, and widespread access to, technology has provided a new medium for 'virtual' bullying, which can occur in or outside school. Cyber-bullying is a different form of bullying and can happen at all times of the day, with a potentially bigger audience, and more accessories as people forward on content at a click.

The wider search powers included in the Education Act 2011 give teachers stronger powers to tackle cyber-bullying by providing a specific power to search for and, if necessary, delete inappropriate images (or files) on electronic devices, including mobile phones. Separate advice on teachers' powers to search (including statutory guidance on dealing with electronic devices) is available – see below for a link to this document.

For more information on how to respond to cyber-bullying and how pupils can keep themselves safe, please refer to the [Childnet International](#) and [Beatbullying](#) websites.

Much research has been undertaken recently which indicates the importance schools should place on preventing bullying and intimidation within the school community.

The research indicates that:

- Victims of bullying are unlikely to disclose their problem which is more likely to present itself as: school reluctance; sleeplessness; regular absenteeism (sometimes on a particular day when the bullying usually occurs); vague illnesses of sudden onset usually after times of less intensive supervision, eg. playtime or dinner times when intimidation may not be immediately noticed; children suddenly preferring to 'stay in' during break times; solitary play on the periphery of the playground; regular loss of basic writing equipment, personal possessions and snack food; graffiti on exercise books or school bags etc; cuts and bruises appearing during the school day which may be explained as accidents but which after investigation, do not fit the circumstances initially described by the victim; loneliness or even unexplained tearfulness.
- Bullied children grow into bullying adults and if unchecked, cause intense suffering to their unfortunate partners, children or employees.
- Bullied children can be seriously affected for life and there are many recorded instances of bullying leading to suicide or attempted suicide in adolescence or early adulthood.

Greenwich House Independent School is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all children that is free from bullying.

Bullying is defined as the persistent physical, verbal or emotional abuse of another child or children.

We aim to:

- Reassure the bullied child that they will be listened to and every effort will be made by the staff to help and support them.
- Not label children as 'bullies'.
- Establish facts surrounding the allegations.
- Help a child that has been bullying to recognise and understand the implications of their actions.
- Recognise that children who bully have often been bullied or are being bullied themselves.
- Discuss with the parents/carers of the child who has been bullying the situation and strategies for managing the behaviour.
- Discuss the situation with the parents/carers of the child who has been bullied and offer reassurance that the situation is being dealt with.
- Record all relevant details of an investigation of alleged bullying.

Children attending the setting will be supported to become more assertive and develop their self esteem

Equipment, resources and activities will be used to promote anti bullying.

Suspending or expelling a child from the setting will only be used as a last resort where other strategies have failed and indicates the seriousness of an episode of bullying. If necessary and appropriate the police may be consulted, depending on the type of bullying.

Help lines and Organisations

- Bullying UK – www.bullying.co.uk
- Kidscape - 020 7730 3300 - www.kidscape.org.uk
- Childline - 0800 1111 - www.childline.org.uk
- NSPCC – 0808 800 5000 - www.nspcc.org.uk

This policy has been adopted by Greenwich House Independent School

Signed on behalf of the setting by:

..... *Head Teacher*

Date: Reviewed Sept 2015

Reviewed Sept 17

Reviewed September 18