



THE COLNE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL & COLLEGE

Anti-Bullying Policy

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Statement of Intent

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our students so that they can learn in a supportive and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all students will be able to inform staff and be assured that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We aim to develop a culture where *anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell a member of staff.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is deliberately hurtful behaviour that is repeated over a period of time. Bullying is unkind and often results in pain and distress to the victim.

The school works hard to ensure that all students know the difference between bullying and friendship issues.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (eg 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 use of text messages, email and any other social media to intimidate or hurt the individual

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Students who are bullying others need to understand the correct way of behaving.

Everyone in the school has a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Objectives of this Policy

- All Governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, students and parents/carers should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All Governors and teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All students and parents/carers should know what the school policy is on bullying and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Students and parents will be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.

Signs and Symptoms

A student 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 truanting
- 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 go 'missing'
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has money continually 'lost'
- comes home very hungry
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- 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

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

Actions to Tackle Bullying

Prevention is better than cure so at the Colne Community School and College we are vigilant in looking for and recognising signs of bullying and always take reports of incidents seriously. The curriculum is used whenever possible, eg Citizenship, Tutorial time etc to reinforce the anti-bullying ethos of the school and help students to develop strategies to combat bullying-type behaviour.

We have trained Anti-Bullying Ambassadors in Years 10 & 11 who assist the staff in promoting our anti-bullying message. . Students can also talk to the Ambassadors to get advice and support. Students can report bullying using the 'Tell Cards and the 'Tell Button' on their Moodle homepage.

Students are encouraged to report any incidence of bullying to an adult within school and that if another student tells them that they are being bullied, or if they see bullying taking place, it is their responsibility to report the incident to a member of staff.

Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to staff on a 'Tell Card'. This should be to the Year Leader in the first instance, but if a student prefers, they can report bullying to any member of staff.
2. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and strategies put in place to stop the bullying.
3. Incidents must be recorded, the information discussed and where appropriate passed on to relevant staff within the Year system and the Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator.
4. A decision will be made to place the bully on the anti-bullying programme where appropriate.
5. Parents/carers will be informed and may be invited to come in to a meeting to discuss the issues.
6. Every attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.

Outcomes

1. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise and other consequences may result.
2. If possible, the students will be reconciled.
3. Parents/carers of the students involved will be informed and where appropriate they will be asked to come into school and attend a meeting to discuss the issues.
4. The school uses various strategies to support the victim and re-educate the bully in accordance with the stages of the anti-bullying procedures.
5. In serious cases, isolation or exclusion will be considered for the instigator(s).
6. After the incident/incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.