

Abingdon Preparatory School

Anti Bullying Policy

This policy also refers to pupils in the EYFS setting

Introduction

Abingdon Prep School is justifiably proud of the very good relations that the great majority of the boys enjoy between each other and with the staff for the great majority of the time.

Like any good school however we are not prepared to become complacent about this however and acknowledge that from time to time certain unwelcome behaviour between pupils can occur.

This is not something that any member of the school community – pupils, staff or parents - should have to put up with.

It is a common concern to us all and can only be effectively dealt with if it is brought into the open and discussed.

It is not the aim to cast blame in the initial stages of difficulties but it should be stressed that repetition of bullying behaviour cannot be accepted and will be regarded as a very serious offence.

What is bullying?

Bullying can occur through several types of anti-social behaviour. It can be;

- Physical
 - A child can be physically punched, kicked, hit, spat at, etc.

- Verbal
 - Verbal abuse can take the form of name calling. It may be directed towards gender, racial or ethnic origin, physical/social disability, sexuality or personality.

- Exclusion
 - A child can be bullied by being excluded from the discussions/activities, with those they believe to be their friends.

- Damage to or theft of property
 - Pupils may have their property damaged or stolen. Physical threats may be used by the bully in order that the pupil hand over property to them.

Bullying affects everyone, not just the bullies and victims. In addition to the direct effects it can have psychological effects both on those involved and others within the school community such as those other children who watch and those drawn in by group pressure.

Such psychological effects can be enormously serious and on some occasions lead to suicide either at the time of the bullying or at a later stage.

Bullying is not an inevitable part of school life or a necessary part of growing up, and it rarely sorts itself out. Some aspects of bullying such as harassment, threatening behaviour and causing physical harm may be dealt with by the law enforcement authorities as well as by the school.

Why is an anti – bullying policy necessary?

The School believes that its pupils have the right to learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without the fear of being bullied.

All institutions, both large and small, contain some numbers of pupils with the potential for bullying behaviour. If a school is well disciplined and organised, it can minimise the occurrence of bullying.

It is important therefore that the School has a clear and written policy to promote this belief, where both pupils and parents/guardians are fully aware that any bullying complaints will be dealt with firmly, fairly and promptly.

As A School

- a) Organise the community in order to minimise opportunities for bullying e.g. provide effective supervision at problem times.
- b) Use any opportunity to discuss aspects of bullying and the appropriate way to behave towards each other e.g. the PSE programme.
- c) Deal quickly, firmly and fairly with any complaints, involving parents where necessary.
- d) Review the School Policy and its degree of success.
- e) The School Staff will continue to have a firm but fair discipline structure. The rules should be few, simple and easy to understand.
- f) Not use teaching materials or equipment which give a bad or negative view of any group because of their ethnic origin, sex, etc.
- g) Encourage pupils to discuss how they get on with other people and to form positive attitudes towards other people. This includes a review of what friendship really is.
- h) Promotion of the 'Abingdon Prep School's Values'.

We will treat bullying as a serious offence and take every possible action to minimise it at Abingdon Prep School.