

2012/2013

TUPTON HALL SCHOOL

Anti Bullying Policy

ASPIRE LEARN ACHIEVE



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

This booklet gives you information about the Anti-Bullying Policy at Tupton Hall School. Please read it carefully. If you have any questions, please contact your child's Head of Year.

INTRODUCTION

Tupton Hall is committed to providing its students with a caring environment in which they can feel safe. It is important that they also feel safe on their way to and from school and therefore the expectations outlined in this policy apply to students at these times and any others when they are representing the school. The Anti-Bullying Policy is an important part of that commitment.

WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is a persistent attempt to hurt, threaten or frighten someone by misuse of power. It can be carried out by individuals or groups and includes:

- Physical violence
- Harassment of people because of their gender, race, religion, sexuality or ability.
- Name calling
- Demanding money or possessions
- Ganging up on people
- Threatening or insulting behaviour
- Deliberately leaving people out or not talking to them
- Forcing people to do things they do not want to do.
- Cyber bullying

CYBER BULLYING

What is cyber bullying?

Cyber bullying is the use of Information Communications Technology (ICT), particularly mobile phones and the internet, deliberately to upset someone else.

These are some things to remember that will help prevent and deal with cyber bullying:

1. Always respect others. Be careful what you say online and what images you send.
2. Think before you send. Whatever you send can be made public very quickly and could stay online forever.
3. Treat your password like your toothbrush. Keep it to yourself. Only give your mobile number or personal website address to trusted friends.
4. Block the bully. Learn how to block or report someone who is behaving badly.
5. Don't retaliate or reply.
6. Save the evidence. Learn how to keep records of offending messages, pictures or online conversations.
7. Make sure you tell:
 - An adult you trust, or call a helpline like Childline on 0800 1111 in confidence.
 - The provider of the service; check the service provider's website to see where to report incidents.
 - A member of staff in school
 - Head of ICT
 - Refer to ICT Policy and Internet rules in classrooms

Finally, don't just stand there. If you see cyber bullying going on, support the victim and report the bullying. Imagine how you would feel if no one stood up for you.

At Tupton Hall we take the prevention of bullying seriously and we will act against bullies in a firm and positive way. However, we can only do this if we know bullying is happening. Students, their friends or their parents must tell us. If you're worried about your child, please contact your child's form tutor, Head or Deputy Year Head or the Head of Upper or Lower School.

HOW WE COMBAT BULLYING

At Tupton Hall we do our best to:

- discourage bullying actively and firmly.

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- ensure that instances of bullying are reported and recorded.
- be aware of students who are particularly at risk and respond appropriately.
- make students aware of their right not to be bullied.
- encourage respect and co-operation.
- promote respect for others through assemblies, what is taught in Learning for Life and other lessons, and through our own example.
- support those who are bullied.
- work to change the behaviour of those who bully.
- Support National Anti-bullying week

Anti-Bullying 'workshops' are also organised in Year Groups to combat bullying.

STRATEGIES FOR ENSURING THAT BULLYING IS REPORTED

- All students are made aware of their rights through the Code of Conduct and frequent reminders. Students are encouraged to report incidents in which other people are being bullied.
- We expect all staff and lunchtime supervisors to be prepared to listen sympathetically to reports of bullying, to make notes and pass concerns to pastoral staff.
- We welcome contact from parents if they suspect their children are being bullied.
- The 'Textsomeone' system can be used to report bullying at any time.

Report bullying or anti-social behaviour 24/7

- *Text 0778 147 4660 and start your message with 20890*
- *Phone 0845 2258230 and key in your id: 20890*
- *www.textsomeone.com*



DEALING WITH INCIDENTS OF BULLYING

Incidents of alleged bullying are investigated by the member of staff to whom they are reported and notes are taken. Notes are then passed to Year Heads or their Deputies, who investigate further. Where Year Heads are satisfied that proof has been established, reports are placed in the files of bullies and bullied and parents are informed.

Bullies are punished as appropriate. This could be by community service, detention, fixed-term or permanent exclusion, depending on the nature of the incidents and, where appropriate, the police will be involved. Where belongings have been taken or damaged, the culprit is expected to pay for or replace them.

In addition to this, we also offer the bully appropriate support to help them to change their behaviour eg by referral to the Learning Mentors or the Aspire team who may use restorative justice to help to resolve an incident. This is in recognition of the fact that many bullies have problems of their own that contribute to their behaviour.

Any student who is the target of persistent or severe bullying will be given special help. This may be through support from peers or older students, the teaching of coping strategies or the involvement of support agencies.

WARNING SIGNS FOR PARENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR

- Regularly feeling sick or unwell in the morning.
- Reluctance to go to or come from school.
- Clothes / bags torn or damaged.
- Money / possessions going missing.
- Wanting extra money for no particular reason.
- Unexplained cuts and bruises.
- Taking different routes to school.
- Unexplained behaviour changes, e.g. moody, bad-tempered, tearful.
- Unhappiness.
- Nightmares.

