

Anti-Bullying Policy



Anti bullying Policy

1. Policy Statement

This policy was written with regard to the DCSF publication, 'Bullying, Don't Suffer in Silence'.

2. Definition

Bullying can be defined as, "a deliberate act done to cause distress....It can be an unresolved single frightening incident or a series of such incidents." It is difficult for victims to defend themselves against bullying.

Bullying can be:

Physical:- hitting, kicking, taking belongings

Verbal:- name calling, insulting, offensive remarks, threats

Indirect:- spreading rumours, exclusion, ostracising

It may be directed at an individual or it may arise out of the victim's ethnicity, nationality, colour, sexual orientation or some form of disability and thus affect a wider group.

3. Aims

At Tate International School our aim is that staff, children and parents work together to create a happy, caring learning environment. We will not tolerate bullying and have a whole Tate International School approach to ensuring safety, security, openness and confidence.

4. Objectives

- To communicate effectively to all members of Tate International School's community our stance on bullying;
- To communicate effectively to all members of the Tate International School's community our policy and procedures;
- To promote an open atmosphere in which victims and witnesses know that it is right "to tell"
- To work with staff so that they can identify different sorts of bullying and know how to deal with cases sensitively and effectively
- To work with children in a range of ways to equip them with skills and knowledge to counter and deal with bullying

5. Strategies

Staff:

- Discuss Tate International School's definition of bullying at least annually to ensure common understanding
- Train all staff, including non-teaching staff, to recognise types of bullying and signs of possible victims

All staff are to follow these 5 key points:

1. Never ignore suspected bullying.
2. Do not make premature assumptions.
3. Listen carefully to all accounts – several pupils saying the same thing does not necessarily mean they are telling the truth.
4. Adopt a problem-solving approach which moves pupils on from self-justification.
5. Follow up repeatedly, checking that bullying has not resumed.

Pupils:

1. The Anti-bullying Policy is re-introduced to all pupils at the beginning of each academic year.
2. Teachers should be aware of the opportunities within the curriculum to create an anti-bullying ethos and to develop self-esteem and peer power.
3. Children will learn through a combination of direct discussion about bullying and indirect strategies in teaching and other aspects of Tate International School.

Parents:

Any concerns raised by parents will be sympathetically heard and investigated.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Tate International School will undertake an audit of 'hot spots' in the School, the grounds and in off-site facilities to identify areas and times where children feel vulnerable or at risk.

All reported cases of bullying will be recorded and the Principal will:

- (a) keep records confidential and secure
- (b) allow access to the records only to the Principal.

7. Procedures

- Refer to Tate International School's Discipline Policy

8. Staff responsibilities:

- Tate teachers are to present and discuss the policy with their group at least annually.

- Emphasise the message 'It is right to tell.'

- Teachers will promote 'Be Kind'.

- If you witness or suspect a case of bullying:

Keep dated notes,

Talk discreetly to the suspected victim and encourage a dialogue,

If bullying is involved, follow procedure No 6,

If none is admitted but you are still suspicious, monitor, suggest that the class teacher uses Circle Time to explore/support.

- If a case of bullying is brought to your attention:

Listen sympathetically and take it seriously but do not make assumptions,

Do not promise unconditional confidentiality; you may have to tell others in order to ensure the well-being of the victim,

Make notes and talk to the Principal.

Agree who will take the next steps/further action. (see No 9, Strategies)

- In the case of bullying, the Principal will:

Ensure that the parents of all children involved are informed,

Record details of the incident(s) and action taken

Identify the nature of the incident(s) and implement appropriate strategies.

These could include:

(a) mediation by an adult

(b) assertiveness training for the victim

(c) group meetings to analyse problems and develop solutions cooperatively

(d) meetings with parents to ensure complementary and effective measures to support children and solve problem

(e) following the cycle set out below

9. Strategies for dealing with bullying:

The emphasis is always on a caring, listening approach as bullies are often victims too – that is why they bully.

- Discussions at length with the victim. This will require patience and understanding. Remember – Listen, believe, act.

- Identify the bully/bullies. Obtain witnesses if possible. Advise the class teacher and the Principal in each case.

- Discussions with the bully. Discuss with them the details and ask them to tell the truth about the situation/incident. Make it clear that bullying is not acceptable at Tate International School.

- If they own up then follow the procedure outlined below and in the Student Discipline Policy.

- If they do not own up, investigate further. If it is clear that they are lying, continue with the procedure. Children usually own up if presented with all the facts.
- Hold separate discussions with the parents of victim and bully.
- Tell the victim that he/she must report any further instances of bullying. Tell the bully that the victim has been given this instruction. This helps to prevent recurrence.
- Through on-going discussions, help the bully to face and understand the consequences of his/her actions, take responsibility and move on. Continue monitoring the situation.
- Records of bullying incidents will be maintained in the students' Individual Student Portfolio and scrutinised by the Principal to check on the effectiveness of this policy and to identify and rectify or eliminate common "hot-spots" of time, place or opportunity.

Authorised by: The Principal

Date: September 2016 Effective date of the policy: 01 September 2016