


STUDENT ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

RESPONSIBILITY:	LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE
PROPOSED BY:	DEPUTY HEADTEACHER (PASTORAL)
TYPE OF POLICY:	STATUTORY
ON WEBSITE:	YES

DATE AGREED BY LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE:	27 JUNE 2024
FREQUENCY OF REVIEW:	3 YEARLY
NEXT REVIEW:	JULY 2027

APPROVED BY:	GOVERNING BOARD
DATE APPROVED AND ISSUED:	15 JULY 2024
SIGNATURE:	 <div>DAVID PACKER CHAIR OF GOVERNORS</div>

In reviewing this policy, the Learning & Achievement Committee has taken into account the provisions of the Equality Policy 2016



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Policy Statement

At Vandyke Upper School:

- we will not tolerate any form of verbal, physical or psychological bullying or “cyber” bullying
- all staff will do their best to prevent bullying and will share responsibility for action if bullying does occur
- all incidents will be investigated in a firm and fair manner
- parents/carers, governors and outside agencies may be involved in any course of action

Defining Bullying

The school has adopted the DfE definition of bullying. Bullying is defined as "*behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, which intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally*".

Anyone has the potential to be a target or perpetrator of bullying.

Types of bullying are:

- **Physical** - for example, pushing, poking, hitting, kicking, biting, punching, including for filming with mobile telephones and theft;
- **Verbal** - for example, threats, name calling, spreading rumours, teasing, belittling, racist or homophobic remarks;
- **Emotional** - for example, isolating others, tormenting, humiliation, manipulation, coercion;
- **Psychological** - for example, gaslighting (a form of emotional abuse that's seen in abusive relationships. It's the act of manipulating a person by forcing them to question their thoughts, memories, and the events occurring around them);
- **Cyber-bullying/Online Bullying** - takes place using technology and can be the method of verbal, emotional or psychological abuse. Whether on social media sites, through mobile phone, or gaming sites;
- **Sexual Bullying** - can be described as any bullying behaviour with a sexual element. It can be both physical and non-physical and it can be carried out to a person's face, without them knowing, or through the use of technology;
- **Sexual Harassment** is a similar term to sexualised bullying. It is unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature which makes someone feel distressed, intimidated or humiliated;

Bullying can be fuelled by prejudice based on any of the following:

- Race (racist bullying)
- Religion or belief
- Culture or class
- Gender (sexist bullying)
- Sexual orientation (homophobic or biphobia bullying)
- Gender identity (transphobic bullying)
- Special educational needs or disability (SEND)
- Appearance or health conditions
- Related to another vulnerable group of people

Bullying is **not** when two people have a disagreement or fall out over something; it is “the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power”. Such abuses of power, if left unchallenged, can lead to more serious forms of abuse, such as domestic violence, racial attacks, sexual offences and self-harm or suicide.

Principles

At Vandyke we believe that “Everyone Matters”. Bullying will not be tolerated. All students and staff have the right to enjoy and achieve within a safe and positive school environment. The school adopts the two underlying principles of the ‘Protective Behaviours’ ethos and approach:

- Everyone has the right to feel safe all of the time
- There is nothing too terrible that you cannot talk to someone about it

It is these principles that underpin Vandyke’s approach to bullying.

Introduction

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Bullying has the potential to damage the mental health of a victim. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Students who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

We are determined to challenge all forms of bullying. All incidents will be investigated in a firm and fair manner. We will do all we can to support any student who is targeted by any form of bullying.

All schools suffer from bullying and Vandyke does not claim to be an exception. We are determined to vigorously challenge all forms of bullying. All incidents are investigated in a firm and fair manner. We will support any student who has been subjected to any form of bullying and will work with perpetrators to ensure they address and take full responsibility for the impact of their behaviour.

The Governing Board has endorsed the work that staff have been doing with students regarding combating bullying.

Through assemblies, life skills and tutor time activities, we encourage students to:

- talk openly about bullying
- recognise its many forms
- realise its consequences
- always report bullying incidents
- discuss ways of responding to bullying

Above all, we ensure that all students know that any form of bullying will be dealt with swiftly and discreetly. Students and parents/carers can be assured that giving information about bullying will not make matters worse. We are very experienced in ensuring that the “victim” is protected.

We ask parents/carers to listen sympathetically to worries about bullying and support their child with reporting any concerns. **We will listen, respond and always take in to account the young person’s wishes and feelings.**

Verbal bullying must be reported. Cruel words can be highly damaging to a young person’s self-esteem and wellbeing. Traditional views about bullying have underplayed its verbal aspects, preferring to think of it mainly as physical violence. Our message is simple:

“Whatever the form of bullying, it must be reported to ensure that we are able to deal with it quickly and effectively.”

Anti-Bullying Procedures and Responsibilities

All staff have a duty and responsibility to stop and report any incident of bullying they encounter, however minor, to the relevant Year Team office.

All students are encouraged to report any incidents of bullying by speaking in confidence to their Head of Year, Head of Student Support, Tutor, or a member of the Leadership Group. Once reported, appropriate action will then be taken, which will at all times place the welfare and safety of the 'victim' at the forefront of the school's response. All students can also report confidentially by emailing Tellme@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk. This email address is monitored by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteachers and Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Heads of Year will coordinate all bullying investigations in conjunction, where necessary, with an appropriate member of the Leadership Group, usually the Director of Year or Head of Student Support, and will complete a bullying report on CPOMS. Parent(s)/carer(s) of the bully and victim(s) will be involved as appropriate and will always be informed.

Sanctions

'Restorative justice' approaches to resolving bullying incidents will be employed wherever possible and appropriate.

Where appropriate, sanctions such as fixed-term suspensions will be used.

In extreme cases, the school reserves the right to permanently exclude students involved in serious cases of bullying.

The Safeguarding Team will monitor incidents of bullying and advise the Headteacher / Deputy Headteacher of trends and actions. All incidents of bullying are reported to the Headteacher and records of bullying are regularly reported to governors for review of patterns or trends.

Student Support

Any student who has been involved in any form of bullying, either as a perpetrator or victim, will be offered support to manage their thoughts and feelings from the Learning Mentor Team.

Staff Training

All new staff, including support staff, receive training and induction on anti-bullying. All are made aware of the school's Anti-Bullying Policy and procedures. Staff are regularly updated on anti-bullying work and whole staff training takes place annually.

Anti-Bullying in the Curriculum

The Life Skills' programme includes specific courses on anti-bullying, conflict resolution and personal development. These are reviewed regularly by the Life Skills' team. Assemblies and Tutor Time provide a further opportunity for students to engage in anti-bullying activity. Many subjects, including English, Humanities and Drama, explore issues related to bullying.

Publicising Vandyke's Anti-Bullying Policy and Work

This is achieved through a variety of publications and activities including:

- Information sent to all parent(s)/carer(s)
- Staff Handbook
- Staff Training
- Assemblies
- Life Skills programme
- School Prospectus

- School Website
- Parent/carer/student information leaflet

Advice for Parent(s)/Carer(s)

- Be vigilant. Look for signs of distress and any changes in behaviour, e.g. becoming withdrawn, mood swings, not wanting to come to school.
- If you think your child is being bullied, remain calm and contact the school.
- Encourage your child to talk to their tutor, Head of Year, or another trusted adult in school.
- Talk to your child and reassure them. 'Talk them up'. Build their self-confidence.
- Do not advise your child to retaliate, or attempt to sort the problem out yourself by speaking to the child whom you think may be behaving inappropriately towards your child, or by speaking to their parents/carers. Avoid becoming over-emotional. Your child needs you to be composed, strong and reassuring.
- Work closely with the school to resolve any bullying issues.
- Refer to the internet safety document issued to parents/ carers.
- Encourage the use of Tellme@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk to report any concerns

Related policies

This policy statement should be read alongside our:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection policy
- Equality policy

Contact details

Telephone 01525-636700

Year 9 Team

Year 10 Team

Year 11 Team

Sixth Form Team

Thomas Lally (Deputy Headteacher) – Lallyt@Vandyke.cbeds.co.uk
 Hannah Sides – Designated Safeguarding Lead -sidesh@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk
NSPCC Helpline 0800 800 5000

Review of Policy and Procedures

Every three years through the Governors' Learning and Achievement Committee.