



Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Anti-Bullying Policy

July 2010

HANDS WORTH WOOD GIRLS' SCHOOL

ANTI BULLYING POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Bullying affects everyone, not just those who have been bullied but also the bullies. It also affects those other children who watch, and less aggressive pupils can be drawn in by group pressure. Bullying is not an inevitable part of school life or a necessary part of growing up, and it rarely sorts itself out. It is clear that certain jokes, insults, intimidating/threatening behaviour, written abuse and violence are to be found in our society. No one person or group, whether staff or pupil, should have to accept this type of behaviour. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed, will a child best be able to benefit from the opportunities available at the school.

WHY IS AN ANTI-BULLYING POLICY NECESSARY?

This 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. The School also has a clear policy on the promotion of good citizenship, where it is made clear that bullying is a form of anti-social behaviour. It is **WRONG** and will not be tolerated.

It is important therefore that the School has a clear 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.

WHAT IS BULLYING?

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

a) Physical

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

b) Verbal

Verbal abuse can take the form of name-calling or offensive language. It may be directed towards ethnic origin, physical/social disability, or personality, religion, race and family background.

Continued!

c) Exclusion

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

d) Damage to property or theft

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.

e) Cyber Bullying

Use of the Internet or Mobile Phones in order to intimidate, threaten, torment another student.

WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU ARE BEING BULLIED?

Remember that your silence is the bully's greatest weapon! Please report the matter to the classroom teacher if it takes place during the lesson.

- a) Tell yourself that you do not deserve to be bullied, and that it is WRONG!
- b) Be proud of who you are. It is good to be individual.
- c) Try not to show that you are upset. It is hard but a bully thrives on someone's fear.

For bullying out of the classroom, report the matter to your Form Tutor, Head of Student Progress, Administration Staff (Reception), Dinner Supervisors, Assistant Headteachers, Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher as well as your parents.

All reported incidents of bullying will be recorded and investigated thoroughly and appropriate action will be taken including notification to bullies parents and appropriate punishment of bullies. Ultimately students who are bullies could be excluded.

S.L.Rippington July 2010