



Anti-Bullying Policy

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School Vision, Mission and Core Values

Our Vision

Moulding and carving confident individuals, as Global Citizens of the future with a broad outlook, instilled with the impeccable virtues of the heart, mind, and soul.

Our Mission

Harnessing independent learning skills by providing the students with research-based and inquiry-based learning opportunities.

Offering an environment that promotes the love for nature, diversity and an affinity for the rich cultural values and traditions of the UAE and the world around.

Promoting the acceptance of every individual, knowing the fact that each one is unique and special.

Engaging students in the latest technological know-hows in view of directing their minds towards a technology-driven future.

Core Values

Engage with Empathy | Emerge with Confidence | Evolve with Innovation |

Enthuse with Environmental Sensitivity | Express with Conviction

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	5
2. AIM OF THE POLICY	5
3. DEFINITION	5
WHAT IS BULLYING?.....	5
WHAT IS NOT BULLYING?	5
4. TYPES OF BULLYING	5
Physical bullying.....	5
Verbal and written bullying	5
Social bullying.....	5
Cyberbullying.....	6
5. POLICY PROCEDURE	6
6. GUIDANCE FOR STAFF.....	7
7. GUIDANCE FOR PUPILS	7
8. GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS.....	7
9. SANCTIONS	8

1. INTRODUCTION

At The Hope English School, we aim to provide a supportive and disciplined environment in which children are encouraged to pursue high academic and personal goals as happy and secure individuals. The policy reflects the school ethos and the curriculum. Its emphasis is on helping children to take responsibility for their behaviour and caring for others. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Online Safety Policy, Acceptable Use Policy, Behaviour Policy and the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy.

2. AIM OF THE POLICY

Our school aims to encourage positive behaviour so that anti-social behaviour such as bullying is prevented. We do all we can to prevent it, by developing an ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable. We aim to produce a safe and secure environment where all pupils can learn without anxiety by addressing all forms of bullying including cyberbullying. This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur. This also includes a procedure to follow and how to record bullying to enable patterns to be identified.

3. DEFINITION

What Is Bullying?

- It is the use of deliberate force forms of verbal or physical abuse whether individual vs individual or group vs individual.
- It is unjust and repetitive behaviour and over time;
- It is intended to hurt or pressure someone, where this person is unable to defend him/herself, due to the unequal strength between the bully and the person getting bullied;
- It can happen in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices.

What Is Not Bullying?

Not every act of unkindness can be classified as bullying. We recognise that sometimes pupils are spontaneously unkind to each other without thinking, and more often than not this is a one-off incident. Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.

4. TYPES OF BULLYING

Physical Bullying

Physical bullying includes hitting, pushing, shoving or intimidating or otherwise physically hurting another person, damaging or stealing their belongings. It includes threats of violence.

Verbal and Written Bullying

Verbal and written bullying includes name-calling or insulting someone about an attribute, quality or personal characteristic.

Social Bullying

This is sometimes called relational or emotional bullying and includes deliberately excluding someone, use of silence, spreading rumours, the formation of cliques, sharing information that will harm the other person and/or damaging a person's social reputation or social acceptance.

Cyberbullying

Cyber-bullying involves the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated and hostile behaviour by an individual or group that is intended to harm others.

It includes any form of bullying behaviour that occurs via texting, social networking sites, mobile phones, digital media, email, camera-enabled devices, and image sharing sites such as YouTube or Flickr, besides:

- o It can be used to carry out all the different types of bullying, an extension of face-to-face bullying.

- o It can also go further in that it can invade home/personal space and can involve a greater number of people.
- o It can take place across age groups and school staff, and other adults can be targeted.
- o It can draw bystanders into being accessories.
- o It includes threats and intimidation; harassment or 'cyber stalking'; vilification; exclusion or peer rejection; Impersonation; and manipulation.
- o It includes the circulation of private information or images.
- o It can be an illegal act as in the UAE it is unlawful to disseminate defamatory information in any media including internet sites.
- o It can involve manipulating a third party to tease or torment someone. It can involve complicity that falls short of direct participation. Bullying can happen anywhere and at any time and can involve everyone: pupils, other young people, staff and parents.

Although bullying is not a specific criminal offence, there are criminal laws that apply to harassment and threatening behaviour. Some forms of bullying are illegal and should be reported to the police and become a Child Protection issue. These include:

- o Violence or assault
- o Theft
- o Repeated harassment or intimidation, e.g. name-calling, threats and abusive phone calls, emails or text messages.
- o Hate crimes

5. POLICY PROCEDURE

The Hope English School educates students both in the proper use of technology and about the serious consequences of cyber-bullying and will, through curriculum, computing lessons and assemblies, continue to inform and educate students in these fast-changing areas.

- All students and teachers must read, understand and sign the Acceptable Use Policy/Agreement.
- All members of the school community are aware that any incident of cyber-bullying or harassment or misuse of technology should be brought to the notice of the E-Safety Officer/Child Protection Officer.
- Students are permitted to use school electronic systems only which are authorised by the IT Administrator and abide by BYOD policy for the use of the personal device.

- Whilst education and guidance remain at the heart of what we do, our school will take action against those who take part in cyber-bullying in line with the guidelines in the Behaviour Policy.
- Support is offered to victims of cyberbullying including emotional support and reassurance.

6. GUIDANCE FOR STAFF

If you suspect or are told about a cyber-bullying incident, follow the protocol outlined below:

- Ask the pupil to show you the electronic devices.
- Note down everything on the screen relating to an inappropriate text message or image, including the date, time and names.
- Make a transcript of a spoken message, again record date, times and names.
- Tell the pupil to save the message/image.
- Ask the pupil to save the material.
- Print off the offending material straight away.
- Make sure you have got all pages in the right order and that there are no omissions.
- Normal procedures to interview pupils and to take statements will then be followed particularly if a child protection issue is presented.

7. GUIDANCE FOR PUPILS

- If you believe you or someone else is the victim of cyber-bullying, you must speak to the Class Teacher or a trusted adult as soon as possible.
- Do not answer abusive messages.
- Do not delete anything until it has been shown to your Class Teacher.
- Do not give out personal details.
- Never reply to abusive e-mails and someone you do not know.

8. GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

Cyberbullying can have a negative effect on academic, social and psychological aspects in children. For young children, general internet safety tips are a good starting point to help them to develop appropriate online etiquette and to learn appropriate responses to misbehaviours.

The following tips are particularly important:

- At this age, children's internet use should still be closely monitored. To help with this try to keep the electronic devices in a shared or visible place in the home.
- Keep your child connected online and offline to friends and family that they trust. This helps to protect them from potentially negative outcomes.
- Help your child understand that what they say and do online is important. Encourage your child to use the same manners, communicate with others in the same way and report others who aren't being nice, just as they would in the offline world.
- Advise your child not to respond to any negative messages and to report any negative messages they receive to you or another trusted adult.
- If your child has passwords for their online activities advise them never to share their password with friends, as friendships may be short-lived at this age and former friends can misuse passwords to cyberbully.

- If parents believe their child is the victim of cyber-bullying, they should save the offending material (if need be, by saving an offensive text on their or their child's mobile phone) and make sure they have all relevant information before deleting anything.
- If your child has been involved in cyberbullying and seems distressed or shows changes in behaviour or mood it may be advisable to seek professional support.
- Parents are advised to approach or inform the Class Teacher/Counsellor/Child Protection

Officer for further support and guidance.

9. SANCTIONS

In line with the Ministry of Education and School Behaviour Policy, bullying cases are considered to be third level behaviour violations. Sanctions for bullying are in line with the School's Behaviour Policy. Strong sanctions, such as suspension and exclusions, may be necessary and imposed in cases of severe and persistent bullying.

Distribution List:

- MD/ Board
- Principal
- Staff
- Parents

Policy Review

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Principal/Board Approval