

Lakeside School Anti- Bullying Policy

Lakeside School does not tolerate bullying or harassment and recognises the damaging effects of all forms of bullying.

All members of the school community are dedicated to establishing and maintaining an environment in which everyone can learn, develop and enjoy life while feeling safe and secure.

We recognise that some students at Lakeside have difficulties with challenging behaviours which can be directed towards other students. While of great concern these are not considered instances of bullying and we are committed to helping pupils with these problems and supporting those who are hurt by them.

What is bullying?

Bullying is a deliberately aggressive, habitual, hurtful behaviour causing pain or embarrassment to others.

- ✓ It is an abuse of relative power
- ✓ It is often repeated over a period of time
- ✓ It is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves
- ✓ It can take on many different forms and can be physical, verbal or indirect
- ✓ It can be planned and organised or it can happen suddenly and spontaneously
- ✓ It can be carried out by individuals or groups

Bullying may include:

- ✓ Any form of physical violence such as, hitting, punching, kicking, pushing, spitting
- ✓ Making aggressive, intimidating gestures or intruding into someone's personal space
- ✓ Interfering with someone's property by stealing, hiding, damaging or destroying it
- ✓ Making violent threats, using offensive names or insulting someone or his family
- ✓ Telling lies, spreading rumours or making up stories about someone
- ✓ Picking on someone or putting them down, belittling their ability and achievements
- ✓ Making abusive or degrading remarks about someone's race, culture, religion or social background
- ✓ Making sexually suggestive or insulting comments
- ✓ Ganging up on someone or hurtfully excluding them from a group or activity
- ✓ Ridiculing someone's appearance
- ✓ Forcing someone to do anything against their will

Issues

Some of our students have challenging behaviours and can be violent. Most of them direct their violence towards staff. Some are violent towards other children. This is not bullying if it is not done with the intention of causing harm to that person in particular – if they are simply the unfortunate recipient of the problems the child is experiencing and expressing at that time.

Bullying implies a degree of forethought, and of malice. It has to be directed deliberately at a person and with the intent to hurt or harm that person with physical abuse or verbal insult. Some children in the school are capable of doing this. However the reasons for their doing so are always a part of their learning difficulty, emotional problems or their autism, and so the issues become less clear cut.

Bullying is unacceptable and staff work with these pupils on this aspect of their behaviour alongside all other elements.

Preventing bullying

As a school community we will not allow bullying to go unreported

This requires **staff** to:

- ✓ Be positive models in words and actions at all times
- ✓ Be observant of signs of distress and suspected incidents of bullying
- ✓ Make efforts to discourage bullying by active patrolling during supervision duties
- ✓ Dedicate time and effort across the curriculum to raising the profile of bullying and creating an ethos encouraging open discussion of the issue in the classroom
- ✓ Take steps to help victims and act so as to remove them from further risk
- ✓ Deal with all incidents promptly and according to the policy
- ✓ Make sure that students are aware of the bullying policy
- ✓ Keep parents informed and involved as partners in our anti-bullying efforts
- ✓ Be consistent

This requires **students** to:

- ✓ Refuse to be involved in any bullying situation
- ✓ Report incidents of bullying to the nearest member of staff,

We believe that, as a first step towards dealing with bullying and violence in our school, we need to cultivate a whole-school atmosphere of mutual tolerance and respect. Respect is just as necessary when students address teachers, and teachers speak to students, as it is when students interact amongst themselves