



ANTI-BULLYING STRATEGY

Aims

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at Aylesbury High School and no-one should be a bystander if bullying is observed. We strongly believe that all students should:

- feel safe
- enjoy both their lessons and free time out of class
- be able to achieve their full potential
- experience a safe, friendly, respectful and inclusive environment
- have positive self-worth and confidence in themselves
- develop essential personal and social skills
- become good citizens.

This strategy should be read alongside the following policies

- Behaviour and Exclusions
- Child Protection and Safeguarding.

Communication and Review

The school's expectations are communicated to all members of the school community through assemblies, student notices, staff bulletins, tutor time activities and L4L. Students are reminded of what constitutes acceptable behaviour throughout the year and Anti-Bullying Week in November of each year provides a platform for this information to be shared.

The School also conducts surveys which include opportunities to review and evaluate levels of bullying as part of annual Key Stage Pastoral Reviews and the bi-annual whole school questionnaires.

Definition of Bullying

Bullying is any behaviour which is deliberately intended to hurt, undermine, threaten or frighten another person or group of people. It happens repeatedly and can continue over time. It involves a real or perceived power imbalance. Bullying is unwanted behaviour that is usually unprovoked and can take the following forms:

- Verbal name-calling, spreading rumours, making offensive comments
- Physical pushing, kicking, slapping, hitting, spitting, fighting
- Emotional mocking, making others feel inferior
- Excluding behaviours
- Racial taunts
- Taunts against someone's beliefs, religion or culture
- Anti-disability taunts
- Comments of a sexual nature or unwanted physical contact
- Homophobic taunts relating to sexuality and/or gender
- Cyber, using any kind of technology and/or social media to achieve any of the bullying above

If someone is being bullied, care enough to report it. Take one or more of the following actions if you are being bullied or if you observe someone being bullied:

- Tell the bully or bullies to stop. Make it clear that you find their behaviour offensive. If you cannot do this, remove yourself from the situation.
- Talk to someone you trust.
- Report the incident to a member of school staff.

Signs and Symptoms of Bullying

Whilst bullying should be considered a possibility and investigated accordingly, it may not be the cause of one or more of the characteristics below. The list below is not exhaustive and implausible excuses for any of the concerns require careful consideration. A person may display:

- mood or behavioural changes; appear nervous, anxious, withdrawn or lack confidence
- self-injury anger aggression, unreasonable behaviour
- low attendance, reluctance to attend school or particular lessons
- difficulty sleeping
- anxiety relating to going to school in the morning or travelling to and from school
- a decline in school work
- regular missing or damaged items
- a frequency in asking for money
- unexplained cuts or bruises
- bullying behaviour towards others

Investigation

All instances of bullying will be investigated, with careful thought given to:

- the safety of all parties involved
- the needs of those directly involved
- preventing the situation from escalating
- the appropriateness of taking a multi-agency approach in the event of a serious incident
- the correct recording of the incident
- an appropriate sanction being applied

Procedure

When an incident is reported:

- Students and staff directly involved will be asked to write an account of what happened. A member of staff will then meet with the students concerned to discuss the incident in more detail.
- Sanctions will be applied in accordance with the school's Behaviour and Exclusions Policy.
- Parents, of both parties, will be contacted in all instances of confirmed bullying.
- The tutor and other relevant members of staff will be informed accordingly.
- Incidents will be recorded on the relevant student files.

Day-to-day Responsibilities

Governors will:

- monitor the number of incidents of bullying reported on a term by term basis
- monitor the implementation of this strategy
- review the strategy alongside the Behaviour and Exclusions Policy

Staff will:

- support the implementation of this strategy
- be positive role models and promote positive behaviours by the way in which they speak to, and treat others
- know and understand the signs and symptoms of bullying
- be vigilant about bullying
- take instances of bullying seriously and report concerns promptly

- investigate reports with an open mind
- record instances of bullying
- monitor bullying situations after they have been resolved

Students will:

- support the implementation of this strategy
- review this strategy through HEART meetings on an annual basis
- feel encouraged, supported and able to report incidents of bullying, by speaking to their:
 - Tutor
 - Head of Year
 - Student Ambassador or other peer
 - Subject teacher
 - Student Welfare Coordinator
 - Matron
 - SENDCo
 - Member of the leadership team
 - Parent
 - Other responsible adult

Parents will:

- support the school in its implementation of this strategy by:
 - understanding that the school will investigate all instances of bullying.
 - encouraging their child to report any instances of bullying promptly.
 - working in partnership with the school to move forwards following an investigation.



childline

ONLINE,
ON THE PHONE,
ANYTIME

childline.org.uk
0800 1111

Are you being bullied?

If you are being bullied, or you are not ready to make a report to CEOP, you can talk to Childline anonymously online or on the phone - No worry is too big or too small.

[Visit Childline](#) 