

ANTI BULLYING – WHOLE SCHOOL POLICY

1. Aims and Objectives

Sherburn High School seeks to create an environment whereby bullying behaviour is not acceptable by any member of the school community.

2. Definition of Bullying

It is the wilful, conscious desire to hurt, threaten or frighten someone. It is repeated often over a period of time and it is difficult for the victims to defend themselves against it.

3. Nature of Bullying

Bullying can take many forms, but three main types are:

- Physical – hitting, kicking, taking belongings
- Verbal – name calling, insulting, making offensive remarks
- Indirect – spreading nasty stories about someone, exclusion from social groups, being made the subject of malicious rumours, sending malicious e-mails or text messages on mobile phones.

Name calling is the most common direct form of bullying and may be because of individual characteristics but students can be called nasty names because of their ethnic origin, nationality or colour, sexual orientation, or some form of disability. As part of the school's Equal Opportunities Policy, Achievement Support Assistants are responsible for recording all such incidents for monitoring purposes.

4. Procedures to follow

Student Expectations and Guidance

Students are not to tolerate any form of bullying behaviour.

- An adult (preferably a teacher) should be informed immediately when someone is being bullied or in distress.
- Students are encouraged to report any incidents of bullying they witness. Doing nothing can suggest support for the bully.
- Students should only accept people who do not bully others. Bullies will soon stop if they are left out, or are by themselves.

5. Strategies for Dealing with Bullying

The school continually works towards the elimination of bullying by:

- Giving help and ongoing support to the victim.
- Making the unacceptable nature of the behaviour and consequences of any repetition clear to the bully and his/her parents.
- Helping and giving support to bullies to change their behaviour.
- Seeking the involvement of external professional agencies if and where necessary.

- Ensuring that all areas of the school are patrolled at break, lunchtime and at the end of the day (staff duty rotas/in-house training to lunchtime Supervisors and Prefects).
- Using the curriculum as an intrinsic vehicle to raise awareness to the school's view and as a means of educating students to the expected school code of behaviour.
- Working closely with parents. All Year 6 parents are given an advice leaflet produced by school re. Bullying and the important part they can play in reducing bullying.
- Peer Support Systems. Selected students undertake training from external professionals to support younger victims of bullying.

6. **Sanctions**

Where students do not respond to preventative strategies to combat bullying, tougher action is taken to deal with persistent and violent bullying. As part of Sherburn High School's Behaviour Policy, a range of sanctions are available to deal with this type of bullying including exclusion in cases of severe and persistent bullying.