

Policy on Bullying 2008 – 2009

Bullying behaviour among pupils is considered with the utmost seriousness. All pupils have the right to have their dignity respected and the school will do its utmost to uphold this right.

BULLYING BEHAVIOUR

Much of what is bullying behaviour is termed by way of excuse by the pupils involved as 'messaging'. Bullying behaviour takes the form of physical, mental and psychological abuse. The following behaviour will be treated as bullying in inter pupil relationships in this school:

- (i)** Physical abuse including, deliberate tearing or defacement of clothing, assaulting another pupil by pinching kicking or punching or in any way deliberately causing another pupil pain or physical discomfort by whatever means.
- (ii)** Deliberately setting out to undermine a fellow pupil's dignity by:
 - (a)** Making unkind remarks to them, or about them to others in their presence
 - (b)** Whispering/laughing about them to others in their presence
 - (c)** Name calling including the use of terms like 'lesbian', 'gay', 'slut', 'slapper' etc.
 - (d)** Jeering in connection with personal appearance, background, religion, race or colour.
- (iii)** Making threats to another pupil and/or engaging in threatening/intimidating behaviour with another pupil.
- (iv)** Deliberate destruction of another pupil's property, including the defacement of books.
- (v)** Hiding of a fellow pupil's books or property.
- (vi)** Deliberate isolation of a pupil including refusing to speak to a fellow pupil and consistent refusal to allow a fellow pupil to be part of group activities whether in or out of class.
- (vii)** The sending of abusive notes and/or text/telephone messages to another pupil.
- (viii)** Creating an environment by whatever means to make a fellow pupil unhappy and to undermine his/her dignity.

THE ROLE OF THE PUPIL

A pupil who is unhappy in school because of the activities of other pupils should do one or some of the following:

- (i)** Let the person or people concerned know that their behaviour makes them unhappy and that they want them to stop.
- (ii)** Report at home that they are unhappy in school and why.
- (iii)** Report in school to one of the following: The Headmaster, Deputy Principal, Year Tutor, Form Teacher, any member of the Teaching Staff, Boarding Supervisory Staff, Prefects.
- (iv)** In the case of boarders and problems in the boarding house report the matter to The Headmaster, Mrs Bolton, one of the Matrons or Housemasters, Prefects.
- (v)** Pupils or a pupil who observe(s) a fellow pupil being bullied should report the matter to any of the above.

THE ROLE OF PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S)

Please note the following:

- (i)** Failure to act if your child reports bullying behaviour to you in the hope that it will stop is not a solution. Bullying generally does not stop unless active steps are taken to deal with it.
- (ii)** It is much more difficult to address an incident of bullying if a considerable time has been allowed to elapse before reporting it.
- (iii)** Gather as much detail as you can about how your child is being treated and, if possible, the identity of those involved.
- (iv)** Contact the school immediately and discuss the matter with the Headmaster.

THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL

When bullying is reported the following procedures will be followed:

- (i)** The matter will be investigated as soon as possible and with as much care, confidentiality and sensitivity as possible.
- (ii)** In the case of less serious incidents a caution and counselling to the offending pupil(s) may be judged as being sufficient.
- (iii)** If the problem persists or is of a more serious nature a formal warning will be issued to the pupil(s) concerned by the Headmaster and a letter sent to their parent(s)/guardian(s) informing them that a formal warning has been issued and why.
- (iv)** In the case of more serious, or repeated incidents, despite a caution, counselling and warning(s), a sanction as outlined in 1.8 of the Code of Behaviour will be imposed.
- (v)** In all events the parents of pupils who have experienced bullying will be notified.
- (vi)** Where possible all staff will be notified of the bullying incident so that there can be as much vigilance as possible in order to prevent any reoccurrence and to give as much support and understanding as possible to the injured party.