



Anti Bullying Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Anti-bullying Policy, the Home-School Agreement, the Community Code and the 6th Form Handbook.

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Committee:	Governors' Pastoral Committee
Intended Audience:	Students, Parents, Staff

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Overview

Aim

The aim of the anti-bullying policy is to ensure that students learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without the fear of being bullied and that staff are free from fear of bullying by pupils. Bullying is anti social behaviour and affects everyone; it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed will pupils be able to fully benefit from the opportunities available at school.

Statutory duties of the school

Headteachers have a legal duty under the School standards and Framework act 1998 to draw up procedures to prevent bullying among pupils and to bring these procedures to the attention of staff, parents and pupils. Under the Education Inspections Bill 2006 the duties are extended to include preventing/responding to bullying that happens outside school, where it is reasonable to do so. Schools also have a duty to 'safeguard' and promote the welfare of pupils (Education act 2002) and to ensure that children and young people are safe from bullying and discrimination (Children Act 2004). Government guidance advises that the policy should also address the bullying of staff by pupils ('Safe to Learn' DCSF 2007)(Coalition Government documents and law-equality Act 2010, Education Act 2011)

Scope of this policy and links to other policies

This policy includes:

- Bullying of pupils by pupils within school
- Bullying of and/or by pupils outside of school, where the school is aware of it
- Bullying of staff by pupils within or outside school

Allegations about bullying of pupils by staff will be dealt with under the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

This policy has links to the following school policies and procedures:

- Behaviour policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Complaints procedures
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy

Bullying

Definition

Bullying occurs when a person or group of people, over a period of time, by word, action or gesture, deliberately deny the dignity of another individual or group i.e. the individual or group will feel-

- Physically and/or mentally hurt or worried
- Unsafe and/or frightened
- Unable to do well and achieve
- Different, alone, unimportant and/or unvalued
- Unable to see a happy and exciting future for yourself.

In order for Finchley Catholic High School to fulfil its Mission Statement in an environment 'in which everyone has a thirst for dignity, respect and social justice' and to 'develop a faith that will sustain us through travails as well as victories', bullying must be identified and eradicated.

What does bullying look like, feel like, sound like?

Bullying is any behaviour by an individual or group that:

- Is meant to hurt – the person or people doing the bullying know what they are doing and mean to do it.
- happens more than once – there will be a pattern of behaviour, not just a 'one-off' incident
- Involves an imbalance of power – the person being bullied will usually find it very hard to defend themselves. It can be:
 - Physical, e.g. kicking, hitting, taking and damaging belongings
 - Verbal, e.g. name calling, taunting, threats, offensive/personal remarks
 - Relational, e.g. spreading nasty stories, gossiping, excluding from social groups
 - Cyber, e.g. e-mails, picture/video clip bullying, Instant Messaging (IM)
 - Indirect, e.g. graffiti, defacing of property, display of pornographic, class, disability, homophobic, racist or sexist material.

Who bullies?

Anyone has the capacity to bully. There are no completely reliable predisposition diagnoses. However, those who perceive themselves as low status within a community, institution or group may use bullying in an attempt to artificially boost their status. Self-esteem is therefore a key factor in whether someone bullies or not. This puts equal opportunities and inclusion at the centre of all anti-bullying work in our school.

Who is bullied?

Anyone can be bullied – young person, parent/carer/guardian, staff member or volunteer. People who suffer bullying are often perceived by others to be different. Sometimes the perceived difference is individual to that person – shyness, physical appearance, clothing and possessions, accent, perceived inappropriate behaviour. Frequently the perceived difference comes from assigning an individual to a group. Such bullying would then be designated as class, disability, homophobic, racist, religious or sexist. People can be assigned or be a member of more than one group.

Identifying and reporting concerns about bullying

All concerns about bullying will be taken seriously and investigated thoroughly. Students who are being bullied may not report it. However, there may be changes in their behaviour, such as becoming shy and nervous, feigning illness, taking unusual absence or clinging to adults. There may be evidence of changes in work patterns, lacking concentration or truanting from school. All school staff will be alert to the signs of bullying and act promptly and firmly against it in accordance with this policy. Students who are bullying others also need support to help them understand and change their behaviour. Students who are aware of bullying ('bystanders') can be a powerful force in helping to address it and will be encouraged to do so in a safe way. All pupils will be encouraged to report bullying by:

- Talking to a member of staff of their choice
- Contacting local and national support agencies for advice/support eg Kooth

A member of staff, who believes that he or she is being bullied or harassed, will be encouraged to report it to a colleague of their choice. Parents will be encouraged to report concerns about bullying and to support the school in tackling it. Trying to resolve bullying directly with the bully or their families can lead to problems escalating.

Responding to reports about bullying

School

The school will take the following steps when dealing with concerns about bullying:

- If bullying is suspected or reported, it will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been made aware of it.
- A clear account of the concern will be recorded and given to the pastoral leader or the member of the SLT linked to that year group.
- The investigating member of staff will interview everyone involved and keep a detailed record. This will be held in line with the school's data protection policy/practice.
- Form tutors will be kept informed and if it persists the form tutor will advise the appropriate subject staff.
- Parents and other relevant adults will be kept informed.
- Where bullying occurs outside school, any other relevant schools or agencies will be informed and advice/support obtained.
- Punitive measures will be used as appropriate and relevant parties involved will be informed.

Pupils & Staff

Staff who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with a member of staff of their choice.
- Providing reassurance that the bullying will be addressed
- Offering continuous support.
- Restoring self-esteem and confidence
- The use of specialist interventions and/or referrals to other agencies e.g. educational psychology, where appropriate.
- Help and advice on how to remove online material when needed.

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Discussing what happened.
- Discovering why the pupil became involved
- Establishing the wrongdoing and need to change

- Informing parents to help change the attitude of the pupil
- The use of special interventions and/or referrals to other agencies where appropriate.
- Peer Mentors

The following disciplinary steps can be taken:

- Official warnings to cease offending
- Detention
- Exclusion from certain areas of the school premises
- Inclusion
- Group or 1 to 1 work to explain the negative effects of bullying to the perpetrators and their cohort.
- Fixed term exclusion
- Permanent exclusion

Parents

- Most concerns about bullying will be resolved through discussion between home and school. However, where a parent feels their concerns have not been resolved, they are encouraged to use the formal Complaints Procedure.
- Where a student is involved in bullying others outside school, i.e. in the street or through the use of internet at home, parents will be asked to work with the school in addressing their child's behaviour, for example, restricting/monitoring their use of the internet or mobile phone
- Referral of the family to external support agencies will be made where appropriate.

Preventative measures

The school will:

- Raise awareness of the nature of bullying through inclusion in PSHE, tutorial time, assemblies, subject areas and informal discussion, as appropriate, in an attempt to eradicate such behaviour.
- Give care and support to create and maintain a safe learning environment where all pupils feel safe, secure and valued and know they will be listened to and taken seriously in line with the school ethos.
- Participate in local and national initiatives such as Anti-bullying Week.
- Seek to develop links with the wider community that will support inclusive, anti-bullying education
- Consider the use of specific strategies, e.g. implement vertical tutoring across the school and peer mentoring on a more regular basis subject to available resources.
- Refer to the LA guidelines on 'Bullying in the Workplace' where an adult in the community believes that he/she is being bullied by another adult.

Adapted from samples provide by Teachernet.gov.uk & Kidscape.org.uk

*More information and guidance can be found on the following websites
www.teenissues.co.uk/cybersafety www.direct.gov.uk/cyberbullying
www.kidscape.org.uk/assets/downloads/dcsfcyberbullying.pdf*