



# WonderStar

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

## Wonder Star School Anti-Bullying Policy

<b>Policy Document Title</b>	Anti-Bullying Policy
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### Statement of Intent

Wonder Star School prides itself on providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our learners so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school.

If bullying does occur, all learners should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly, severely and effectively. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to inform members of staff.

The school recognises that some pupils may be more vulnerable to bullying, including looked-after children, young carers, and learners with communication or emotional needs. The school also recognises that learners who engage in bullying behaviour may themselves have SEND or additional vulnerabilities. All responses to bullying will therefore be applied fairly, consistently and reasonably, with appropriate consideration given to individual needs and circumstances.

## What is bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person either physically or emotionally, by intimidating or demeaning others. It is usually persistent and is often covert, and is a conscious attempt to hurt, threaten or frighten someone. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

## Bullying can be, but not limited to:

- **Emotional:** Derogatory name calling of an insulting and/or personal nature. Demanding money, material goods or favours by means of threat or force.
- **Physical:** Pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence because of some perceived physical, economic, sexual, intellectual, cultural or racial difference.
- **Racist:** racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- **Sexual:** Unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- **Homophobic:** because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality. Homophobic, bi-phobic and transphobic (HBT) bullying is unacceptable
- **Verbal:** name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing, abuse and threats. Ridiculing an individual.
- **Cyber:** All areas of internet, such as email & internet chat room misuse. Mobile threats by text messaging & calls. Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera & video facilities

## Why is it important to respond to bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

## Objectives of this Policy

- All teaching and non-teaching staff, learners and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school's policy is on bullying and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All learners and parents should know what the school's policy is on bullying and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As an education provider, we take bullying seriously. Learners and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated whatsoever.

## **Staff Responsibilities**

- To implement procedures to confront bullying of any form
- To consider the special educational needs, disabilities, and vulnerabilities of all learners involved when investigating incidents and deciding on appropriate interventions.
- To listen to all parties involved in incidents
- To investigate incidents promptly and as fully as possible
- To take appropriate action and to refer to the Head of School as soon as possible
- To share with parents of the victim and bully, incidents of serious and /or persistent bullying
- To promote the use of a range of learning styles and strategies which challenge bullying behaviour
- To promote open management styles which facilitate communication and consultation within school and relevant agencies when appropriate
- To promote the use of interventions which are least intrusive and most effective.

## **Signs and Symptoms**

- A learner may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. All adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a learner:
- Is frightened of walking to or from their school / school
- Doesn't want to go into vulnerable areas of the school i.e. toilets,
- Is unwilling to go to school
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious, or lacking
- Changes in behaviours

*These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.*

## **Procedures**

Where a learner involved in bullying (as a victim or perpetrator) is identified as vulnerable, staff will work with the SENCO, mentor, or relevant professionals to ensure appropriate support and reasonable adjustments are put in place.

- Report bullying incidents to staff or Head of School
- In particular cases of bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff
- In particular cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
- The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
- An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour

## Outcomes

Disciplinary measures will be proportionate, fair and consistent, taking account of the age, developmental stage, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and any additional vulnerabilities of the learners involved.

Reasonable adjustments will be made where necessary to ensure learners with SEND are supported to understand the impact of their behaviour and to change it.

The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences such as those in our behaviour policy may take place. Methods could include, but are not limited to;

- Assertive training
- Counselling (Wonder Star School specially trained staff)
- Use of communication books
- Involvement of external agencies
- Monitoring by Mentor/Learning Manager
- Peer support/peer mentoring
- Formal recording (racism/homophobia)
- Use of behaviour contract
- Liaison with school/parent/carer/social worker
- In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered
- If possible, the learners will be reconciled

After the incident/incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

The school will monitor bullying incidents involving vulnerable learners and learners with SEND to ensure support strategies are effective and that bullying does not reoccur.