

## ANTI – BULLYING POLICY

### Statement of Intent

At Crown Private School, Ajman we are committed to providing a warm, caring and safe environment for all our children so that they can learn and play in a relaxed and secure environment. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in our school. We take all incidents of bullying seriously. Bullying hurts. No-one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect and pupils who are bullying others need to learn different ways of behaving.

At Crown Private School, Ajman we acknowledge that bullying does happen from time to time – indeed, it would be unrealistic to claim that it does not. When bullying does occur, everyone should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively in accordance with our anti-bullying policy.

### Aims and Objectives of this Policy

The aim of this policy is to try and prevent and deal with any behaviour deemed as bullying. The implementation of this policy will create an ethos where bullying is regarded as unacceptable so that a safe and secure environment is created for everyone to learn and work in. All members of the school have a responsibility to recognize bullying when it occurs and take appropriate action in accordance with the school policy. This will happen in the following ways:

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents/guardians will have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on bullying and will consistently and swiftly follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents/guardians will know what the school policy is on bullying and what they can do if bullying occurs.
- Pupils and parents/guardians will be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Whole school initiatives (staff training, celebration assemblies etc.) and proactive teaching strategies (PHSE [Personal, Health & Social Education] lessons, circle time etc.) will be used throughout the school to reduce the opportunities for bullying to occur.
- A positive, caring ethos will be created within the school environment where everyone can work, play and express themselves, free from the fear of being bullied.

### What Is Bullying?

The school has adopted the following collaborative definition of bullying which is our shared understanding of what bullying is:

Bullying is any deliberate, hurtful, upsetting, frightening or threatening behaviour by an individual or a group towards other people. It is repeated over a period of time and it is very difficult for the victims to defend themselves (remember STOP – it happens Several Times on Purpose).

### **Bullying can be:**

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures), ridiculing, humiliation
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, threats, teasing, making rude remarks, making fun of someone
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching, throwing stones, biting, spitting, punching or any other forms of violence, taking or hiding someone's things
- Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures, making fun of culture and religion
- Online/cyber setting up 'hate websites', sending offensive text messages, emails and abusing the victims via their mobile phones
- Any unfavourable or negative comments, gestures or actions made to someone relating to their disability or special educational needs.

### **Bullying is not:**

It is important to understand that bullying is not the odd occasion of falling out with friends, name calling, arguments or when the occasional trick or joke is played on someone. It is bullying if it is done **Several Times On Purpose (STOP)**. Children sometimes fall out or say things because they are upset. When occasional problems of this kind arise it is not classed as bullying. It is an important part of children's development to learn how to deal with friendship breakdowns, the odd name calling or childish prank. We all have to learn how to deal with these situations and develop social skills to repair relationships.

### **Where does bullying happen?**

It can happen anywhere – in the classroom, in the corridor, in the washrooms, in the dining hall, in the playground. Bullying may also happen on the way to and from school. In such cases, the Class teacher is empowered to deal with such incidents but must do so in accordance with the school's policy.

### **Signs and Symptoms:**

A child may indicate, by different signs or behaviour, that he or she is being bullied.

Adults should be aware of these possible signs and investigate further if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- doesn't want to go on the school bus.
- begs to be driven to school
- begins truanting
- becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to underperform in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions go "missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay the bully)
- has lunch or other money continually "lost"

- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- comes home starving (money/snack/sandwiches have been stolen)
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- starts swearing or using aggressive language for no apparent reason
- is bullying other children or siblings

- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be taken seriously and investigated as soon as possible.

### **What can you do if you are being bullied?**

Wherever you are in school, you have the right to feel safe. Nobody has the right to make you feel unhappy. If someone is bullying you, it is important to remember that it is not your fault and there are people who can help you.

The children were all asked this question and we have included some of their strategies in the list below:

- Try not to let the bully know that he/she is making you feel upset.
- Try to ignore them.
- Be assertive – stand up to them, look at them directly in the eye, tell them to stop and mean it.
- Stay in a group, bullies usually pick on individuals.
- Get away as quickly as you can.
- Tell someone you can trust – it can be a teacher, a teaching assistant, a parent, a friend, a brother, a sister or a relative.
- If you are scared, ask a friend to go with you when you tell someone.
- If you don't feel you can talk to someone about it, write it down and post it in the 'Worry' box.
- When you tell an adult about the bullying give them as many facts as you can (What? Who? Where? When? Why? How?).
- Keep a diary of what's been happening and refer to it when you tell someone
- Keep on speaking out until someone listens and helps you.
- Never be afraid to do something about it and quick.
- Don't suffer in silence.
- Don't blame yourself for what is happening.
- Call a helpline for some advice. The UAE has specified a hotline to receive bullying reports from schools around the country through dialing the number 116111. In addition to their mobile application "Himayati".

### **What can you do if you see someone else being bullied? (The role of the bystander)**

Ignoring bullying is cowardly and unfair to the victim. Staying silent means the bully has won and gives them more power. There are ways you can help without putting yourself in danger.

The children have also discussed this question in class and some of the strategies they suggested are listed below:

- Don't smile or laugh at the situation.
- Don't rush over and take the bully on yourself.
- Don't be made to join in.

If safe to do so, encourage the bully to stop bullying.

- If you can, let the bully know you do not like his or her behaviour.
  - Shout for help.
  - Let the victim(s) know that you are going to get help.
  - Tell a member of staff as soon as you can.
  - Try and befriend the person being bullied.
  - Encourage the person to talk to someone and get help.
  - Ask someone you trust about what to do.
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  - Call a helpline for some advice. The UAE has specified a hotline to receive bullying reports from schools around the country through dialing the number 116111. In addition to their mobile application "Himayati".

### **Bullying of children with Special Educational Needs: -**

The Crown Private School is an inclusive school. We provide a secure, accepting, safe and stimulating environment where everyone is valued for who they are.

We have some children who have learning disabilities and/or communication difficulties. Everyone involved in the school is very aware that these children can be especially vulnerable to bullying and we are therefore particularly vigilant at all times.

High attainers, gifted or talented pupils can also be affected by bullying. Staff will treat this type of bullying as seriously and in the same way as any other type of bullying.

### **Procedures for reporting and responding to bullying incidents**

All staff will respond calmly and consistently to all allegations and incidents of bullying at The Crown Private School. They will be taken seriously by all staff and dealt with impartially and promptly. All those involved will have the opportunity to be heard. Staff will protect and support all children involved whilst allegations and incidents are investigated and resolved.

The school behaviour policy should be followed in cases of reported incidents and this includes:

- Initially a no blame approach will be taken and the effect of bullying on all parties will be discussed.
- The class teacher will deal with the bullying report in the first instance and record in the behaviour log
- Parents of both parties will be informed at an early stage
- The social worker will follow up on repeated reports of bullying
- Referral to an appropriate member of the Senior Leadership Team where interventions have failed to prevent repeats of the behaviour- the stages will then be followed as outlined in the school's behaviour policy.
- Depending upon the nature of the incident, children can be referred to the principal at any stage.

The following step-by-step procedure will be used for reporting and responding to bullying allegations or incidents:

1. Report all bullying allegations and incidents to staff.
2. Staff will make sure the victim(s) is and feels safe.

- Appropriate advice will be given to help the victim(s).
4. Staff will listen and speak to all children involved about the incident separately.
  5. The problem will be identified and possible solutions suggested.
  6. Staff will attempt to adopt a problem solving approach which will move children on from them having to justify their behaviour.
  7. Appropriate action will be taken quickly to end the bullying behaviour or threats of bullying.
  8. Staff will reinforce to the bully that their behaviour is unacceptable.
  9. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place and appropriate sanctions applied
  10. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled.
  11. An attempt will be made, and support given, to help the bully (bullies) understand and change his/her/their behaviour.
  12. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff on the Online Incident Report Form.
  13. In serious cases parents will be informed and will be invited to come into school for a meeting to discuss the problem.
  14. After the incident has been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.
  15. Bullying incidents will be discussed regularly at staff meetings.
  16. The Head of the Behaviour Management team will present termly reports on serious bullying incidents to the Governors.
  17. If necessary and appropriate, the Child Protection Officer in school or Social Services will be called,

The following sanctions may be used:

The children have also discussed this question in their classes and some of the sanctions they suggested are included in the list below:

- Apologise to the victim(s) verbally or in writing
- Lose privileges
- Lose playtimes (stay with class teacher, write lines or do extra work)
- Lose Class Dojo Points for behavior
- Spend playtimes and lunchtimes with an adult
- Parents will be invited in to school to witness their child's behavior and speak to the Principal and Behaviour management team.
- Be removed from class and work in isolation
- Be withdrawn from participation in school visit, clubs and events not essential to the curriculum.
- Fixed term exclusion
- Permanent exclusion

### Strategies for the prevention and reduction of bullying

Whole school initiatives and proactive teaching strategies will be used throughout the school to develop a positive learning environment with the aim of reducing the opportunities for bullying to occur.

These can include:

- Undertaking regular questionnaires and surveys to monitor the extent of bullying in the school and the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy
- Each class agreeing on their own set of class rules

Making anti-bullying week a high profile event each year

- Awareness raising through regular anti-bullying assemblies
- PHSE (Personal, Health & Social Education) scheme of work from Reception to Year 6 used to support this policy
- Circle time on bullying issues
- Children writing stories and poems and drawing pictures about bullying
- Children being read stories about bullying
- Using drama activities and role-plays to help children be more assertive and teach them strategies to help them deal with bullying situations
- Creation of an anti-bullying school notice board.
- Prominently displaying anti-bullying posters produced by the children around the school
- Introduction of a confidential 'Worry' box where children and parents/guardians can write and post their concerns and ideas
- Training Grade 5 or Grade 6 pupils to be Play Pals/Buddies
- Using praise and rewards to reinforce good behaviour
- Encouraging the whole school community to model appropriate behaviour towards one another
- Organizing regular anti-bullying training for all staff

### Monitoring and evaluation of the policy

To ensure this policy is effective, it will be regularly monitored and evaluated. Questionnaires completed by the whole school community, together with surveys, focus groups, children's and parents'/guardians' comments posted in the 'Worry' box and bullying incident forms will be used to gauge the effectiveness of the policy. Following an annual review any amendments will be made to the policy and everyone informed. An annual report made by the Head of the behavioral Management Team will then be issued to governors and the policy will be distributed to all parents.

