

One Degree Academy

ANTIBULLYING POLICY

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Introduction

- 1.1 One Degree Academy is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our students so they can learn in a nurturing and secure atmosphere. Bullying and harassment of any kind is unacceptable whether it is in the Academy or in off-site activities. If bullying or harassment does occur, all students should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. This means that anyone who knows that bullying or harassment is happening is expected to tell the staff.
- 1.2 All members of the Academy Governing Body, staff, students and parents should have an understanding of what bullying/ harassment is and what the Academy's procedures are for responding to bullying/ harassment.
- 1.3 As an Academy we take bullying and harassment seriously. Students, staff and parents and anyone associated with the Academy should be assured that we do not tolerate bullying/ harassment and that they will be supported when such behaviour is reported.

2 What is bullying/ harassment?

- 2.1 Bullying or harassment is the use of deliberate aggression with the intention of hurting another person.
- 2.2 Bullying/ harassment can be:
 - Emotional - being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, equipment, threatening gestures);
 - Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence;
 - Racist - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures;
 - Sexual - unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments;
 - Homophobic - because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality; Because of learning or physical disabilities;
 - Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing because of appearance etc.;
 - Cyber - all areas of internet use, such as e-mail and internet chat room misuse;
 - Mobile threats by text messaging & calls, misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera & video facilities, facebook, snapchat, twitter or other social media etc.

Bullying is often a series of apparently minor incidents. Explicitly tackling these minor incidents will reduce the occurrence of more major or persistent bullying.

Minor incidents include:

- name calling
- looks
- “borrowing” equipment
- one student intimidating another in order to copy homework
- spoiling another student’s work
- pushing in at the dinner queue
- groups of students isolating another by not letting him or her join in
- forcing students to give up their place at a computer

2.3 Cyber bullying

The Academy has a duty to safeguard its students from all forms of bullying, including cyber bullying. Although cyber bullying is not a specific criminal offence, there are laws that can apply in terms of harassing or threatening behaviour:

- Cyber bullying can take place at any time that someone logs on or picks up a phone, and often invades people’s personal time and space.
- Cyber bullying can involve a large number of people e.g. social networking sites. Images or text messages can be passed quickly from one person to another, or shared websites. This makes it hard to control.
- Cyber bullying can involve a whole range of people who may not normally engage in face to face bullying but feel that bullying through the internet gives them a certain amount of anonymity.
- Cyber bullying can also spiral from a non-bullying action e.g. sending a text to one individual that is then passed on to others.
- Many cyber bullying incidents leave an evidence trail, e.g. text messages, print screens, which can all be used as evidence.

3 Why is it important to respond to bullying/ harassment?

3.1 Bullying hurts. No one deserves to suffer from bullying or harassment. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Students and staff who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

3.2 We all have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying/ harassment.

4 Signs and Symptoms

There are a number of possible signs and behaviours which might indicate that a student is being bullied. One Degree Academy staff should be vigilant at all times and intervene if a student:

- Is frightened of walking to or from school;
- Doesn't want to go to school by public/school transport;
- Insists on being driven to school;
- Changes their usual routine;
- Is unwilling to go to school after previously enjoying being part of the school community;
- Begins to truant;
- 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 do poorly in school work;
- Comes home with clothes torn or books damaged;
- Has possessions which are damaged or unexpectedly go missing;
- Asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully);
- Has dinner or other monies continually "lost";
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises;
- Comes home starving (money / lunch has been stolen);
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable;
- Is bullying/ harassment other children or siblings;
- Stops eating;
- Is frightened to say what's wrong;
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above;
- Is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone;
- Is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received;
- These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying/ harassment should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

Other signs may also manifest themselves not sited here.

Whatever the level or intensity of bullying, staff should intervene. Every incident, however minor it may seem, is potentially painful for the student involved. Non-intervention condones the bullying.

5 Responsibilities

5.1 Governing Body

The nominated Governing body member will liaise with the Chair, the Principal and a designated teacher over all anti-bullying/ harassment strategies and individual cases where appropriate. The Academy Council will discuss, review and endorse agreed strategies on the initiative of the nominated Council member, and in any case will discuss the Principal's annual report on the working of this policy.

5.2 The Principal

The Principal has a legal duty to draw up procedures to prevent bullying/ harassment among students.

The Principal will:

- ensure that all staff have an opportunity of discussing strategies and reviewing them;
- determine the strategies and procedures;
- discuss development of the strategies with the Academy Leadership Team;
- ensure appropriate training is available;
- ensure that a system for recording bullying incidents is in place;
- ensure that the procedures are brought to the attention of all staff, parents and students;
- report annually to the Academy Governing Body

5.3 A designated senior staff member will:

- be responsible for the day-to-day management of the policy and systems;
- ensure that there are positive strategies and procedures in place to help both those being bullied and the bullies;
- maintain the Academy's record of incidents of bullying;
- keep the Principal and designated teacher informed of incidents;
- arrange relevant staff training;
- determine how best to involve parents in the solution of individual problems;
- make a termly report to the Principal;
- promote a culture of anti-bullying/harassment;
- be responsible for ensuring that the Academy's positive strategies are put into practice;
- know the Academy's procedure and deal with any incidents that are reported.

5.5 All Staff will:

- be responsible for liaising with the appropriate member of staff over all incidents involving students in their form, class or house group;
- ensure that all incidents of bullying are reported to the responsible senior member of staff;
- be involved in any agreed strategy to achieve a solution;
- take part in the anti-bullying/ harassment programme in the relevant character, PSHE or Citizenship course;
- know the policy and procedures;
- be vigilant and observant and ask students what is happening to them;
- deal with incidents according to the policy;
- never let any incidence of bullying/ harassment pass by unreported, whether on-site or during an off-site activity.

6 Anti-Bullying/ harassment Education in the Curriculum

- 6.1 The Academy will raise the awareness of the anti-social nature of bullying/ harassment through its Character curriculum, PSHE and Citizenship programme, Academy assemblies, the Student Council, use of tutorial time and in the national curriculum programmes of study as appropriate.
- 6.2 The designated senior member of staff is responsible for initiating and developing with appropriate colleagues an anti-bullying/ harassment programme as part of the Character, PSHE and Citizenship courses; and other appropriate staff are responsible for introducing anti-bullying/ harassment material in their programmes of study as appropriate.
- 6.3 Changing the attitude and behaviour of bullies will play a major part in the strategies used by the Academy.

Anti-bullying/ harassment Procedures

7 Parents

- 7.1 If parents suspect their child is being bullied they should contact the Academy. Parents should be prepared to talk about the signs and symptoms and any suspicions they have regarding those carrying out the bullying/ harassment.
- 7.2 Parents must leave the initial investigation to the Academy. Any attempt to resolve the issue themselves is likely to make the matter worse.

7.3 Parents should encourage their child to talk to an appropriate member of staff in the first instance, or a student trained in anti-bullying.

8 Students

8.1 If a student thinks they are being bullied they must tell an adult, parent, a member of staff, or use an antibullying system (such as a bully box) and be prepared to explain what form the bullying/ harassment is taking and how it affects them

8.2 Students who witness bullying/ harassment must tell an adult, parent, Learning Guide/mentor or other member of staff.

9 Staff

9.1 If bullying/ harassment is reported to a member of staff they will record the details as presented to them and pass these on to the appropriate staff member. No promise of confidentiality can be given.

9.2 Following a reported incident staff will investigate using the following strategies, with the support of other members of staff as appropriate:

- Reflection - What has happened? Could it have been different?
- Resolution - How can we try to ensure this doesn't happen again?
- Reconciliation - How we put things right between those involved?

9.3 All incidents of bullying/ harassment must be recorded by staff in a bullying system or book that the Principal must organise.

9.4 In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.

9.5 If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted or involved.

9.6 Time out/ reflection time may be used if deemed appropriate. The level of time out will be determined by the success of the 3Rs process (7.2) and at the discretion of the member of staff involved.

9.7 Care must be promoted for the victim and the bully, not just one.

10 Persistent bullying/harassment

10.1 If a student continues to inform that they are being bullied, they should be provided with a log book to record this.

11 Students who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with an appropriate member of staff of their choice;
- Reassuring the student;
- Offering continuous support with a designated member of staff;
- Restoring self-esteem and self-confidence;
- Referral to a Peer Mentor if appropriate;
- Referral to a counsellor;
- Offering continuous support and advice to parents;
- Being informed about the outcome of the investigation in to their concerns

12 Students who have bullied will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened;
- Discovering why the student became involved;
- Establishing the wrong-doing and the need for change;
- Informing parents to help change the attitude of the student;
- Referral to a counsellor (if necessary);
- Attend a mediation (restorative justice) meeting with the effected student to resolve issues and prevent recurrence.

Changing the attitude and behaviour of bullies will be part of the responsibility of the positive procedures used by the school. However, the school recognises that sanctions will also have to be used against bullies.

13 Sanctions

Students who have bullied will be punished appropriately according to their behaviour, in accordance with the Academy's Behaviour for Learning policy.

For persistent offenders or incidents considered as gross acts of aggression, a student may be permanently excluded.

14 Complaints

If a parent or carer is dissatisfied with the response made by the Academy following a reported incident of bullying/ harassment, he/she may make a complaint in accordance with the Academy's Complaints Policy.

15 Equal Opportunities

In implementing this policy all members of staff must take into account the Academy's Equal Opportunities policy. Staff must ensure that no student involved in any incident of bullying/ harassment is disadvantaged on the grounds of gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief.

16 Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

One Degree Academy will review this policy at least every two years and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

Help organisations:

KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline 0845 1 205 204

Childline 0800 1111

Parentline Plus 0808 800 2222

Bullying Online www.bullying.co.uk