



ASPIRE - LEARN - ACHIEVE

# ***ANTI-BULLYING STATEMENT***

**REVIEWED July 2013**

Bentley Park College **DOES NOT tolerate bullying in any form**. All members of the school community (staff, students and parents) are committed to providing a safe and supportive school environment, which promotes personal growth and positive self-esteem for all.

## WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is any unprovoked behaviour that causes discomfort, embarrassment and unhappiness to another individual. It involves threatening, frightening, hurting or attempting to control others.

## TYPES OF BULLYING:

- **Physical bullying:** Pinching, pushing, shoving, fighting, or any other unwelcome physical contact used intentionally to intimidate or hurt someone.
- **Verbal bullying:** Includes name-calling, offensive language, put-downs, picking on people because of their race, gender or religion.
- **Exclusion:** Deliberately being “left out” of games or peer groups, etc.
- **Sexual harassment:** Individuals or groups of one sex making physical or verbal derogatory comments about another individual or group of the opposite sex, etc.
- **Rumours:** Rumours, malicious gossip, untrue sexual comments, etc.
- **Extortion:** Physically stronger and more powerful students forcing weaker students to hand over lunches, money, etc. Stealing games, balls, and personal effects from others.
- **Gestures:** Includes body language or subtle facial expressions – all designed to intimidate, threaten or silence a victim, etc.
- **Cyber / Electronic Bullying:** Includes electronic media use designed to threaten or be hurtful. Includes behaviour sent or posted by email, instant messaging, and social network sites. It also includes SMS text messaging to a victim, or putting these hurtful comments on the internet about the victim for others to see.
- **Bullying on the Ground of Disability:** Includes victimisation, harassment or bullying (of any of the types identified above) of a student with a disability, or of a student who has an associate with a disability, in relation to the disability.

## EFFECTS OF BULLYING:

Students may:

- Feel frightened, unsafe, embarrassed, intimidated, depressed or unfairly treated
- Find their ability to concentrate; work, sleep and health may suffer
- Experience deterioration in relationships with family and friends
- Become confused and unsure about what to do about the problem
- Avoid coming to school to escape the problem

## RIGHTS:

- Everyone has the right to feel safe.
- Everyone has the right to an education without interference from others.

## RESPONSIBILITIES:

It is everyone’s responsibility **NOT** to harass or bully another person. Harassment, victimisation and bullying of any type is prohibited by Bentley Park College.

If you are being bullied it is your responsibility to:

- Inform the perpetrator that you wish that type of behaviour to stop (**SPEAK UP**)
- Seek help if bullying behaviour persists (**SPEAK OUT**)

## **REPORTING BULLYING:**

If you are being bullied and are not able to cope with the situation you are in, or if you witness repeated bullying, the next step is to report the incident(s) of bullying to one of the following:

- Classroom teacher
- Year coordinator
- Guidance Officer
- School-Based Youth Health Nurse
- Head of Department – Student Services
- Any other member of staff you feel comfortable talking to

The person you contact may be able to help you by:

- Listening
- Offering advice and / or counselling
- Meeting with the offender (if necessary) – see below

## **CONSEQUENCES OF BULLYING:**

If you bully other students or are involved in incidents associated with bullying, the person contacted by the victim will:

- Follow up reported incidents
- Make a permanent record on your profile on OneSchool
- Contact your parents
- Implement behaviour management consequences (i.e. mediation, lunch or afterschool detentions, suspension)