



Anti-Bullying Policy 2018-19

Statement of Intent

David Game College (“The College”) is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our students so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere and in which students and parents feel that they can report incidents of bullying, confident that they will be dealt with in an appropriate manner. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our College. **Everyone has the right to learn and work in an environment free from harassment and discrimination, where they feel safe.** If bullying does occur, all students should be able to tell a member of staff and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. At David Game College we take bullying very seriously as we understand what a devastating impact it can have on a person and their social and academic development. As part of the College’s commitment to **British Values**, it is important that all students and staff respect individual liberty and have tolerance and mutual respect for others with different faiths and beliefs. Equally, the College is committed to identifying and combating all forms of discrimination.

This policy is based on and refers to the latest guidance, “Preventing and Tackling Bullying, 2017”, which replaces the previous guide –Safe to learn: embedded anti-bullying work in schools. Emphasis is placed on compliance with the Equality Act 2010.

Students are expected to report bullying incidents to a teacher and parents should let the College know immediately if they believe their son or daughter is being bullied.

The Aims of the Policy

1. To enable students to understand clearly what constitutes bullying throughout the curriculum and day to day life at College by raising awareness.
2. To enable students to understand that bullying, whether it is physical, verbal or indirect will not be tolerated by the College community.
3. To enable parents to feel confident that bullying will be firmly dealt with by the College.
4. To promote a non-violent ethos in the College.
5. To raise staff awareness of the presence of bullying, in particular cyber bullying
6. To establish guidelines for action where bullying is evident.
7. To ensure that all students feel it is ‘safe to learn’ in our environment.

We expect students and staff to have a clear understanding of the effects of bullying on the individual. Although bullying is not a specific criminal offence, there are criminal laws that apply to harassment and threatening behaviour.

The Principal directs the staff within the College to ensure that measures on behaviour and discipline form part of the code of conduct and behaviour management arrangements.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group usually repeated over time that intentionally hurts an individual or group either physically, emotionally or both. Bullying can take many different forms, physical, psychological or verbal. It can also take indirect forms, which include cyber bullying; now the most dominant form of bullying amongst children over 12. The motivation to bully can come from racial ideas, religion, individual differences, cultural, sexual and sexist concepts, or bullying can relate to a person's special educational needs and disability.

Bullying can take different forms, but the three main types are:

- Physical** Hitting, kicking, taking or hiding belongings including money
- Verbal** Name-calling, teasing, insulting, writing unkind notes
- Indirect** Spreading nasty stories about someone, exclusion from social groups, being made the subject of malicious rumours, cyber bullying such as sending malicious e-mails or text messages, Facebook post or Tweets

All of the above methods of bullying have a psychological effect on the victim. Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim. Bullying can be:

Racist Bullying – this refers to a range of hurtful behaviour, both physical and psychological, that makes a person feel unwelcome, marginalized, excluded, powerless or worthless because of their colour, ethnicity, culture, faith community, national origin or national status.

Bullying related to sexual orientation/gender – this refers to the hurtful behaviour both physical and psychological, that makes a person feel unwelcome, marginalized, excluded, powerless or worthless because of their sexual orientation (especially those who are lesbian, gay or bisexual, i.e. homophobic bullying), or their gender.

What is cyber bullying?

Cyber bullying is the use of electronic media - especially mobile phones and the internet - to intimidate, threaten or upset someone. **Cyber bullying** is now the dominant form of bullying for children, especially teenagers. Cyber bullying takes many forms (new ones constantly emerge), the principal forms include: denigration, harassment and threat, flaming, humiliation and embarrassment, stalking, posing and blackmail.

Cyber bullying can also include:

- texting scary or rude messages by mobile phone
- sending unpleasant photographs by mobile phone
- using online message boards, chat rooms or social networking sites to post cruel messages
- deleting the victim's name from or ignoring their messages on social networking sites
- Making allegations or disseminating rumors about others using social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter

SEN or disability related - when an individual or group uses someone's individual characteristics such as their intelligence, their learning ability or their disability to cause harm and upset.

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. Students who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving. The College has a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying. Pupils and staff must understand the importance of using inclusive and non-derogatory language. Pupils also need to understand the difference between banter and interactions that can hurt or threaten.

Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, students and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors and teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the College policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All students and parents should know what the College policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a College we take bullying seriously. Students and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying **will not be tolerated**.

Signs and Symptoms

A student may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a student:

- is frightened of walking to or from College
- doesn't want to travel on public transport
- begs to be driven to College
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to College (phobic)
- begins to truant
- becomes withdrawn, anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in academic work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or " go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- "loses" money continually
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- comes home hungry (lunch money has been stolen)
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other students 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 an e-message is received

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

Raising Awareness of Bullying

This is done by the application of our values throughout the College, through the curriculum and assemblies, together with:

- Staff training and communication with other Colleges within the David Game group to share strategies and experiences.
- Peer training and mentoring.

It should be noted that bullying not only affects students – staff can also be bullied - by other staff, parents or students. New staff are inducted and are made aware to whom they

can express their concerns if the need arises, eg they can talk to their line manager or a member of the Leadership Team.

Examples of unacceptable behaviour include:

- name-calling
- racist and sexist behaviour
- making threats
- making people feel small
- hurtful remarks and personal comments
- dares – making someone do something they do not want to
- whispering about others
- laughing at a hurt or upset person
- preventing someone getting help
- ignoring people and leaving them out
- mocking differences
- damaging work or belongings
- hiding belongings
- pressurising children to join in inappropriate behaviour

other behaviour that makes someone feel unhappy

Engaging bullying issues in the curriculum

Teaching may be used to promote pro-social behaviour in lessons; themes such as teamwork (eg in sport or the sciences), moral issues (eg in assemblies, in Sociology and the sciences) and citizenship (eg in PSHE/SMSC) are examples of this.

The focus of such work must direct students to be open in dealing with bullying, so that if a student is being bullied they must tell someone. We advise students to tell their Personal Tutor or a member of the Leadership Team. However, we also urge students to tell a friend or any Tutor if they feel more comfortable doing so. We work vigorously to ensure that friends help the victim and act as a support when it comes to informing details of the bullying. We also advise students to tell their parents if they feel comfortable in doing so.

Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to staff.
2. The incidents will be recorded by staff.
3. In serious cases, parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem in person or to do so by telephone when this is not practicable.
4. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted.

5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
6. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.

Outcomes

1. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place.
2. In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered.
3. If possible, the students will be reconciled.
4. After the incident/incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

Prevention

We will use KIDSCAPE methods for helping young people to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- writing a set of College rules
- asking students to sign a behaviour contract
- holding discussions about bullying and why it matters

Following a report of Bullying

- If a member of staff believes that bullying is taking place, they should allow the victim to talk whilst reassuring the student that the College will deal with it sensitively but firmly.
- The member of staff must refer any incidents of bullying in writing to a member of the Leadership Team, who will liaise with the Principal and decide on action to be taken. This may include:
 - a. Talking with the victim.
 - b. Asking the victim to write down their version of events.
 - c. Calming their feelings.
 - d. Talking with the alleged bully.
 - e. Informing the parents of both parties.
 - f. Trying to resolve the problem through counselling.
- If the allegation is proven and serious, this may require disciplinary action.
- Support may be provided for the victim via the Tutor, or through peer mentoring or external agencies.
- The Leadership Team member will liaise with the student's Tutors to monitor the situation, checking that further bullying is not occurring.
- The Leadership Team member will record the incident and action taken.

Guidance on advice to victim and protagonist

To the victim

- revenge is not appropriate.
- involving other students, friends may not help.
- report future fears or incidents to an appropriate adult.
- reconciliation or avoidance should be considered.

To the protagonist

- behaviour is unacceptable.
- behaviour is recognised as designed to cause distress.
- serious sanctions may follow.
- reconciliation or avoidance should be considered.

To the parents

- advise their son or daughter to inform the College as soon as possible.
- reassure that the College does its best to resolve all cases.
- parents who are made aware that their son or daughter is bullying other students are asked to explain that what he/she is doing is wrong and makes others unhappy.

Sanctions

- Parents informed.
- Student withdrawn from social contact with others.
- Exclusion from individual lessons.
- Temporary exclusion from College.
- Permanent exclusion from College.

The College will endeavour to maintain counselling even when sanctions have been applied. If the College feels that a pattern has emerged with an individual who is being bullied, or someone who is bullying, the College will act quickly and sensitively to ensure that this is dealt with.

Who is responsible for implementing the policy?

The Leadership Team and staff

When is the policy implemented?

Whenever the College is responsible for the conduct and welfare of its students.

Monitoring and Success Criteria

By the number of reported incidents and responses to questionnaires (parental and student)

This policy has been formulated using the following publication:

Preventing and Tackling Bullying. DfE July 2017

School support for children and young people who are bullied DfE 2014

Advice for parents and carers on cyberbullying DfE 2014

Cyberbullying: Advice for headteachers and school staff and is informed by a range of materials from the Anti-Bullying Alliance and Kidscape eg *Stay Cool in School* by Margaret Goldthorpe and other relevant texts.

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)	0300 0115 142	www.ace-ed.org.uk
Community Legal Advice	0845 345 4345	www.communitylegaladvice.org.uk
Parentline Plus, part of Family Lives	0808 800 2222	www.familylives.org.uk
Youth Access	020 8772 9900	www.youthaccess.org.uk
Bullying Online		www.bullying.co.uk
KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline	0207 730 3300	www.kidscape.org.uk

John Dalton
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This policy should also be read in association with Acceptable Use of Technology and E-Safety, as well as Safeguarding Policy and Prevent Strategy.