Burnside College

Anti-Bullying Policy

2020 - 2021

Bullying

The effects of bullying on an individual can be extremely traumatic, affecting both the education and broader life of the student. Burnside will not accept this type of interference in another's education. Burnside has a zero tolerance approach towards bullying.

Our anti-bullying policy aims to help create a positive and caring ethos within Burnside where everyone is valued and respected as an individual, and where everyone feels safe and secure in a way which enhances their social and academic development. The principle aim is to foster an atmosphere where bullying is discouraged and is seen to be both inappropriate and wrong. In creating this document and revising it we work with the students to ensure that what we do in school has an impact and that our policy is 'student friendly'.

Attitude of the school

We view bullying as a serious issue. All staff, parents and students must be aware that bullying will not be tolerated at Burnside, and we will make every effort to ensure that bullies are dealt with appropriately through appropriate education and restorative work. We aim to cultivate a climate of positive support in school which encourages students to realise that they do not have to tolerate bullying, and that they must inform

someone if they are being bullied. Students must be confident in the knowledge that they will be sympathetically listened to, and that action will be taken which is prompt but sensitive to their concerns. Equally important is that we support all students including the person responsible for bullying so that they can recognise that their behaviour is wrong and help them make better choices. We always do this work but we may have to put other strategies in place to support all parties. Sustained, wilful and deliberate intent to cause harm will be dealt with as according to our behaviour policy. If a parent feels that the issue is causing significant risk or harm and is happening outside of school or online we would advise parents to report issues to the Police.

Definition of Bullying

Bullying is behaviour which makes people feel uncomfortable or threatened. There is a *deliberate* intention to instil fear or anxiety. Bullying was defined by a High Court judge presiding over a bullying case as "conduct which intentionally causes hurt, either physical or psychological, which was unprovoked and which *persists over time."*

Single episodes of bad behaviour in school do not generally constitute bullying, unless it is of a "targeted and persistent nature". However, all incidents of unkindness will be dealt with in a consistent manner.

The main types of bullying are:

Verbal:	name calling, teasing, insulting, making offensive comments, writing unkind notes, sending inappropriate notes, threatening or intimidating.
Physical:	hitting, kicking, pushing, punching, taking or hiding belongings, damaging property.
Emotional:	being unfriendly, excluding, discriminating, tormenting, spreading rumours, giving looks, gesturing
Cyber-bullying:	sending threatening text messages or emails, setting up hate sites, posting abusive, humiliating or threatening messages online, sending abusive images or videos, making nuisance calls or upskirting.

Cyber-bullying

We have added an additional section to this policy as this type of bullying seems to be the most likely occurrence, if any, in our community. We recognise that we have a duty to help prevent cyber-bullying perpetrated both inside and outside of school which can impact upon a young person's wellbeing. We have a comprehensive PSCHE curriculum that we deliver through lesson zero that both teaches students how to stay safe online and also the law and issues that surround the person who chooses to participate in

such activities. The majority of issues reported to us happen outside of school. Schools cannot monitor students online outside of school hours. We use our parental bulletin to share information with parents on how to do this so they can work with their child/children to reduce the likelihood that students can become the victim or responsible for the bullying. We advise that parents are aware of the age 13 limit on use of Apps/ sites and we would encourage parents to monitor access to popular sites once students reach this age.

Parents and children/young people should work together to identify cyber-bullying issues outside of school. Cyber-bullying is an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual using electronic forms of contact repeatedly over time against a victim who cannot easily defend himself/herself. By cyber-bullying, we mean bullying by electronic media such as:
- Bullying by texts or messages or calls on mobile phones
- The use of mobile phone cameras to cause distress, fear or humiliation
- Posting threatening, abusive, defamatory or humiliating material on websites, to include blogs, personal websites, social networking sites.
- Using email to message others
- Hijacking/cloning email accounts
- Making threatening, abusive, defamatory or humiliating remarks in chat rooms, to include, but not limited to Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Snapchat.

Cyber-bullying is generally criminal in character and we would advise that parents contact the Police if they believe this is happening and causing emotional harm to their child. There are laws that apply to cyberspace:
- It is unlawful to disseminate defamatory information in any media including internet sites.
- Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 makes it an offence to send, by public means of a public electronic communications network, a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or one of an indecent, obscene or menacing character.
- The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 makes it an offence to knowingly pursue any course of conduct amounting to harassment.

Our staff are trained and use this policy to respond effectively to reports of cyber-bullying or harassment in school. We endeavour to block access to inappropriate websites, using firewalls, antivirus protection and filtering systems. Where appropriate and regularly, we audit ICT communications and the security arrangements in place. We will apply our usual behaviour and bullying policy in such situations but dependent on severity we may feel this requires a children's services or police referral if we believe that a child is at risk of harm.

Please do contact the school, without hesitation, if you believe a child is being bullied. Working together we can support and re-educate our learners to ensure that these issues are kept to a minimum. Students can report bullying using the App in school, via their form tutor, progress leader or mentor. Where we can support and help we will do so readily. Parents can support us with this by carefully monitoring their child's social media use and by ensuring that students do not use their mobile phones on site or outside of school to cause continued distress or harm to others.

The weekly bulletin has parental updates on how to report and how we can support such issues linked to bullying. In addition, we conduct a yearly audit of bullying and the issues that face young people and we welcome parental involvement.

The following resource has useful information:
http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying-and-cyberbullying/research-and-resources/

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