

PARK AVENUE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL  
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# **ANTI - BULLYING POLICY**

PARK AVENUE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL



Educating Nurturing Inspiring

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**Reviewed and updated on 01/08/2016**

As in all schools bullying may occur and must be taken seriously.

Because bullying is destructive

Because bullying interferes with education

Because bullying affects pupils, parents and teachers

Because we are working to get rid of bullies and bullying

### **What is Bullying?**

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms (for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages or the internet), and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because a child is adopted or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences. Stopping violence and ensuring immediate physical safety is obviously a school's first priority but emotional bullying can be more damaging than physical; teachers and schools have to make their own judgments about each specific case.

It can be in the form of:

1. Insults
2. Physical violence
3. Isolating someone
4. Using cruel nicknames
5. Writing untruthful things about someone
6. Making threats
7. Ostracising or banish an individual
8. Spreading rumors
9. Tormenting
10. Being unfriendly
11. Teasing
12. Taking or hiding property.
13. Sexual orientation (e.g. homophobic bullying)
14. Cyber bullying, ie; via email,facebook, twitter etc. and via mobile phones.

### **This can happen:**

- In classrooms
- In corridors
- In playgrounds
- On buses
- Outside school.

### **How do you stop Bullying?**

- Tell-

Unless someone tells a friend, teacher or parent, it is difficult to help. We all have a responsibility to protect each other.

- Counsel –

We believe that good advice and support can change the behavior of bullies and their victims.

- Be consistent –

a victim must always be given time, listened to and not rejected.

- Punish-

Bullies must understand that they can be severely punished for persistent bullying.

- Inform-

Parents must know if their child is involved in persistent bullying. The School will write to parents and tell them.

### **Why should I tell if there is bullying?**

If you do not tell someone:

- The bullying carries on and gets worse.
- The bully could bully other pupils.
- The bully would not get help.

### **What will happen to someone who is bullying?**

- They will be asked to explain their actions.
- Their parents will be informed.
- Appropriate action will be taken.
- If bullying continues then the bully may be excluded from the school.
- The schools procedure for tackling bullies is as follows;

### **Prevention**

The school's response to bullying will not start at the point at which a child has been bullied. The school will develop a more sophisticated approach in which school staff proactively gather intelligence about issues between pupils which might provoke conflict and develop strategies to prevent bullying occurring in the first place. This might involve talking to pupils about issues of difference, perhaps in lessons, through dedicated events or projects, or through assemblies. Staff themselves will be able to determine what will work best for their pupils, depending on the particular issues they need to address.

### **Intervention**

School will apply disciplinary measures to pupils who bully in order to show clearly that their behaviour is wrong. Disciplinary measures will be applied fairly, consistently, and reasonably. It is also important to consider the motivations behind bullying behaviour and whether it reveals any concerns for the safety of the perpetrator. Where this is the case the child engaging in bullying may need support themselves.

The school will also apply the following to minimise and even eradicate bullying altogether;

1. Involve parents.
2. Evaluate regularly.
3. implement disciplinary sanctions. The consequences of bullying reflect the seriousness of the incident so that others see that bullying is unacceptable.
4. openly discuss differences
5. provide effective staff training.
6. celebrate success.