

Ysgol Maes y Gwendraeth

Anti Bullying Policy



The Governing Body has approved and adopted the Anti Bullying Policy in order to satisfy the requirements of the Data Protection Act, 1998.

This policy will be reviewed annually and revised when any changes are made by either the school or the local Authority.

Created: July 15th, 2016

Revised: July, 17th, 2017

Aims of the School

- To provide the necessary support and guidance in order to promote the contributions of the pupils in the teaching and learning to their full ability.
- Enable every pupil to achieve his or her true potential academically, practically and socially, and to support pupils to develop lively and inquisitive minds.
- Enable every child to communicate effectively orally and in written work in Welsh and English.
- Nurture pride in the Welsh language and its culture, whilst at the same time appreciate other cultures and nurture a respect for minorities within their community.
- Create a community within the school which is sensitive to spiritual, physical, moral and humanitarian values.
- Ensure adequate opportunities within the school community to develop self expression, service, faithfulness, guidance and self-confidence and to encourage self respect and respect towards others.
- Prepare the pupils for full and adequate lives after leaving school and to serve their communities as responsible, bilingual adults.

Introduction

In addition to having an effect on the victim and the bully himself/herself, the case of bullying affects everyone, including those pupils who are witnesses to it and who see what's happening. Bullying is not an inevitable part of school life and is not a necessary part of growing up. Bullying is unacceptable, whether it be physical, verbal, sexual, psychological, online, homophobic, racist or because of gender. No individual or group of pupils should suffer this kind of behaviour against them, and every case has to be solved before a pupil can take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered to them by the school.

At Ysgol Maes y Gwendraeth we believe that every young person has the right to be treated with respect and understanding. He/She should also be able to undertake any activity without the fear of being tormented. Any behaviour that undermines these principles is totally unacceptable. The school is committed to give a high profile to campaigning against bullying and promote healthy social aspects. Every pupil, friend or parent has the right to share concerns and every teacher has the duty to listen and to act. A clear procedure has been determined to deal with cases of bullying which are known to pupils, parents and staff.

What is bullying?

Bullying is the deliberate and conscious desire to harm, threaten or frighten someone through word or action. Any one can be targeted by a bully and this can be for a variety of reasons such as gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, age and disability. Girls and boys of every age can be guilty of bullying. If a child is unhappy, or is being threatened or bullied, we are very anxious to do everything within our ability to solve the situation.

Bullying can be:

- **Emotional**

A child can be bullied by being unfriendly, damage or steal belongings or simply 'cut out' from conversations or activities - very often by those considered to be friends.

- **Physical**

Where a child is being pushed, hit, kicked or by using any form of violence.

- **Verbal**

Where a child is called names, gossiped about, made fun of or being provoked.

- **Cyber bullying**

Where a pupil is being harrassed online by using malicious messages, social websites e.g. Facebook. Sending unsuitable emails or text messages or sending unacceptable or cruel pictures through the internet.

- **Homophobic**

Bullying motivated by prejudice against lesbians, gays and transexuals or those who are identified as being lesbians, gays or transexuals.

- **Disability**

Bullying pertaining to special educational needs or disabilities.

What are the signs of bullying? (these can be possible signs of other matters of concern)

- Reluctance to go to school.
- Appears to be afraid of the journey to school and back.
- Standard of the work deteriorating and underachieving.
- Complaining about sickness such as a bad stomach or a headache.
- Having nightmares or having trouble to sleep.
- Coming home regularly with lost or damaged property.
- Arriving home starving.
- Asking for extra pocket money or stealing money.
- Starting truancy.
- Depression, being sulky or in a bad temper.
- Aggressive and bullying others.
- Physical injuries, such as bruises that cannot be explained.

School Guidelines

What to do if you are bullied:

- If you are being bullied, you must tell someone **immediately** e.g. parent, form tutor, Head of Year, Head of Pastoral Care or any teacher you can confide in. The school will consider your concerns seriously.
- It's important that you tell your friends and ask them for their support. Stay with a group of friends for you to feel safer.

- Tell yourself that bullying is wrong, and that you don't deserve and that you shouldn't suffer being bullied.
- Try not to show that bullying has an effect on you. A bully likes to see people afraid of him/her.
- Fighting back could make things worse. Speak to a teacher or parent or older friend first.

If you know someone who is being bullied:

- Do something! Looking and doing nothing is a way of supporting the bully.
- If you can't do something personally, tell an adult immediately. Teachers have ways of dealing with a bully without getting you into trouble.
- Don't be friendly with a bully (or even pretend to be a friend).

To the parents

- Be vigilant to unusual behaviour by your child e.g. A sudden wish not to go to school, feeling sick continually – 'sick stomach' or a decline in the standard of his/her school work.
- Take an active part in your child's education. Ask how things went during the day/during the lessons, who did they spend time with during break or lunch time.
- If you think your child is suffering tell the school immediately. Your comments are considered seriously and action will be taken following your complaint. Ensure the child that asking the school for help is the only way of solving the matter.
- Some parents advise their child to hit the bully back. Although some would argue for this response based on effectiveness, the school cannot approve it as an acceptable strategy. As a matter of fact, circumstances could arise where the school would have to punish those who have decided to administer their own justice.
- If you are not happy with the steps taken, share your concerns and ask for an appointment with the Head of Pastoral Care . Together we must find a way forward, We conscientiously commit ourselves to the responsibility of working with you to ensure that your child is happy at Ysgol Maes y Gwendraeth.

The school does:

- organise its community to reduce the opportunities to bully e.g. Providing staff supervision during break and lunch time and keeping an eye during lessons for unfair behaviour, cruel words or violent actions.
- use every opportunity to discuss the aspects and effects of bullying e.g. during PSE lessons and assemblies.
- deal quickly and effectively and fairly with every complaint, including speaking to parents. The school will consider your concerns seriously.
- review the policy and its success constantly.
- encourage everybody to respect others.
- consider every complaint about bullying seriously, investigating every complaint and take steps to eliminate bullying.

Discipline Guidelines

When a complaint about bullying is made, or when a teacher notices a case of bullying, the school will speak to the person being bullied, the bully and any witnesses to the incident(s).

We support the person being bullied by:

- offering him/her an opportunity to talk about the experience with a member of the Pastoral Care Team.
- discussing the matter with the parents/guardians of the victim
- giving advice and offering the support of a variety of external agencies, if necessary.
- organising appropriately in order to help the situation e.g. care during break or lunch time; escort during lessons and escort from the site at the end of the day.
- respond by using one or more of the Discipline Steps.

Discipline Steps:

(It's important to note that **every** situation is unique, and therefore, moving to a higher step can happen depending on the seriousness of the situation. In every situation, the school will keep a constant contact with the home of the victim)

- **STEP 1:** Hold a meeting between the victim, the bully and any witnesses under 'no fault' conditions. Set clear and definite steps to be taken.
- **STEP 2:** Monitor the situation carefully e.g. monitor Step 1 steps; supervise during break and lunch time; speaking with the bully/victim
- **STEP 3:** If there are no changes in the bully's attitude, place the bully on a Daily Report to monitor his/her behaviour. Notify the home of the bully.
- **STEP 4:** If the bullying doesn't stop, the bully will face Detention or Exclusion from school for a short specific period.
- **STEP 5:** Invite the bully's parents to school to discuss the matter and the way forward. In some circumstances, the school Counsellor/Community Policeman/youth worker is invited to be present.
- **STEP 6:** If he/she continues to bully, he/she will be excluded from school for a period of time.
- **STEP 7:** If the bullying persists, it will be recommended that the bully be excluded from school permanently.

Detailed and correct records of the above steps will be kept.

Useful Websites

- www.bullying.co.uk
- www.kidscape.org.uk
- www.parentlineplus.org.uk
- www.snapcymru.org
- www.wales.gov.uk/respectingothers
- www.antibullying.net
- www.childline.org.uk