

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY (Non-statutory)



Preamble

The aim of the Nunthorpe Academy Anti-Bullying Policy is to ensure that students can learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. **BULLYING IN ALL ITS FORMS IS CONTRARY TO THE ETHOS OF NUNTHORPE ACADEMY, IT IS UNACCEPTABLE AND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** If bullying does occur, all students should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

Definition of bullying

Bullying is defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, often repeated over a period of time and/or where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. In recent times nationwide, the areas where there has been most increase and therefore are the cause for most concern, are in relation to online and prejudice based bullying.

The four main types of bullying are:

- **Physical** – pushing, hitting, kicking or any use of violence
- **Verbal** – name-calling, sarcasm, racist and homophobic remarks
- **Indirect** - spreading rumours, tormenting, excluding someone from social group
- **Cyberbullying (Online)** - the use of mobile telephones, emails, chat rooms, instant messaging and social networking (and any other web-based media). This is an area that we have seen a significant increase in and parents/carers need to be vigilant about their students' use of e-media.

Identifying the Signs of bullying

Students who are being bullied may show changes in their behaviour, such as becoming shy and nervous, feigning illness, taking unusual absences or clinging to adults. There may be evidence of changes in work patterns, lacking concentration or truanting from school. **STUDENTS ARE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGED TO REPORT BULLYING AT NUNTHORPE.**

Procedures for reporting

Any student who feels that they are being bullied or witnesses bullying, should report this to their tutor or other member of colleagues of their choice. If they are too scared to tell a member of staff or to speak to another adult on their own, they should ask a friend to go with them. The student could also tell their family and ask their family to inform the Academy.

Nunthorpe has a confidential email address anti-bullying@nunthorpe.co.uk where students can report incidents of bullying. This can be accessed via the Nunthorpe Academy website by clicking on "For Students", then "student support – anti-bullying". This can be either the victim or witness to bullying.

They can also tell the Inclusion Officers, who will investigate all incidents of alleged bullying.

Responding to bullying

Nunthorpe's colleagues must be alert to the signs of bullying and act promptly and firmly against it. The Inclusion Officers will investigate serious incidents. Senior colleagues, including Heads of House, Pastoral

This policy will be kept under regular review in light of legal developments and best practice.

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Managers, Heads of Department/Subject, Assistant Vice Principal Standards, Assistant Vice Principals, Vice Principal will be expected to support the Inclusion Officers. The relevant Tutors and/or Heads of House/Pastoral Managers of those students involved will be made aware of any incident by means of a brief written report as well as an entry on the student's SIMS Behaviour log. This will be retained for future reference and will also help identify any patterns or repeats in behaviour. Parents/carers will be kept informed of the stages.

Cyber-bullying (Online), by its very nature, will always require further investigation. If the bullying involves mobile telephones or other multimedia devices these will be confiscated to enable investigators to examine them. The Nunthorpe Academy Internet and Network Usage Policy clearly outlines the procedures relating to: Computer systems, Internet, email, mobile telephone and multimedia use.

Students and their parents/carers are required to agree to and sign 'Nunthorpe Academy Internet and Network Usage Agreement' upon the student's admission to the Academy. It clearly informs all parties, that any evidence of this type of bullying, will be retained by the Academy e.g. emails, text messages, etc.

Advice and support

Nunthorpe students are provided with accessible sources of advice and support. A student who feels they are subject to bullying, or who has witnessed bullying, may approach any Academy colleagues who will then ensure that the matter is dealt with as quickly as possible.

Heads of House, Pastoral Managers and Form Tutors can provide advice, reassurance and support to any student who has been subject to bullying and will help with regard to restoring self-esteem and confidence. If necessary, Heads of House or Pastoral Managers can arrange counselling for victims of bullying, or indeed the bullies with a member of the Inclusion team. Students who have bullied others will be supported by: discussing what happened, discovering why they became involved, establishing the wrong doing and why there is a need to change their behaviour. Also parents or carers will be informed to help change the attitude of the student.

The following disciplinary steps can be taken (if applicable):

1. official warnings to cease offending
2. detention
3. exclusion from certain areas of the academy premises
4. minor fixed-term exclusion (internal)
5. major fixed-term exclusion (external)
6. permanent exclusion

Strategies for prevention and reduction

Within the curriculum, the academy will raise the awareness of the impact of bullying through inclusion in PSHE, form time, assemblies and subject areas, as appropriate. The issue of bullying will also appear on the agenda for staff meetings, Governor meetings, and parent's evenings; in an attempt to continually reduce such behaviour.

Monitoring, evaluation and review

The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the academy. Nunthorpe Academy will review this policy annually and assess its effectiveness.

This policy will be kept under regular review in light of legal developments and best practice.