



Ulverston Victoria High School

POLICIES

Anti-Bullying Policy

Author/Owner:	Sub-Committee:	Ratified/Reviewed by Governors:	Chair of Governors Signature:
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Every member of Ulverston Victoria High School has the right to feel safe and happy in school and on journeys to and from school (with reference to Section 89 of the Education and Inspection Act 2006.

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 can be 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.

Definition of Bullying

1. Willful behaviour which threatens the security and happiness of another member or members of the school.
2. This may take the form of:
 - Physical abuse
 - Verbal abuse
 - Rude gestures
 - Extortion
 - Threatening or intimidating behavior
 - Abuse of pupils with Special Educational Needs or disabilities
 - Psychological pressure
 - Harassment
 - Racist comments
 - Sexual molestation
 - The use of homophobic or transphobic language
3. It may involve individual or groups bullying other individuals or groups.
4. It takes place regularly over a short or long time span.
5. It may be taking place out of school.
6. It is carried out by those in a position of power over those who are powerless to resist and is the willful, conscious desire to hurt, threaten, frighten or coerce someone else.
7. It is premeditated and usually forms a pattern of behaviour.
8. It may involve new forms of technology eg mobile phones, the internet (see section on cyber bullying).
9. The school reserves the right to determine an occurrence or series of occurrences as “bullying” and to deal with the matter appropriately according to the anti-bullying policy.

Cyber-Bullying

The rapid development of, and widespread access to, technology has provided a new medium for “virtual” bullying, which can occur in or outside school. Cyber-bullying is a different form of bullying and can happen at all times of the day.

The Anti-Bullying Alliance has identified 8 types of cyber bullying:

1. Flaming (online fights using abusive and vulgar language).
2. Harassment (anonymous sending of nasty, mean and insulting messages).
3. Denigration (damaging someone’s reputation on line).
4. Impersonation (pretending to be someone else on line in order to get them into trouble or into conflict with others).
5. Outing (sharing someone’s secrets or publishing embarrassing information about them).
6. Exclusion (intentionally excluding someone from an online group).
7. Cyber stalking (repeated, intense harassment that induces fear).
8. Cyber threats (either direct threats or the sending of distressing material).

We would respond to any of these activities as bullying and use the approaches outlined in this policy, asking parents to monitor and intervene at home.

Aims of the Policy

- To prevent bullying.
- To deal promptly and positively with any incident of bullying.
- To become a “telling” school, actively encouraging pupils to disclose incidents of bullying, promoting awareness that silence and secrecy nurture bullying.
- To build an anti-bullying climate encouraging an atmosphere of trust in which pupils feel confident to disclose bullying and understand the need for prompt and appropriate action.
- To support victims.

Prevention of Bullying

- The ethos and culture of Ulverston Victoria reinforces positive behaviour and respect for others and students should feel able to tell if someone is making them feel uncomfortable or hurting them.
- Awareness of the nature of bullying is increased through assemblies, form time and other relevant areas of the curriculum, and also through appropriate displays of work, leaflets and posters.

- All pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for recognising and ending the bullying of others.
- Victoria Values and the Behaviour Policy promote the need for a positive and respectful atmosphere.
- The Acceptable Usage Policy of ICT in all subjects encourages pupils to stay safe, keep passwords private and to use school email responsibly.
- The School's mobile phone policy encourages pupils to use mobile phones safely and responsibly.
- All pupils entering the school in Year 7, and their parents, are made aware of the school's refusal to tolerate bullying behavior at the Open Evening and the Year 7 Interviews. They are also advised about e-safety.
- Parents of all pupils who enter the school after induction to Year 7 receive a copy of the policy as part of the induction pack for their child.
- All Year 7 tutor groups are allocated a pair of peer mentors who are older student volunteers who have been trained through the SEALS (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) programme to understand and support those being bullied. The mentors will be introduced to Year 7 forms as part of the transition process from Primary school. The mentors will visit form periods and will be seen around school.
- The school recognises that children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities may have additional vulnerabilities.
- Students can report that bullying is happening by using the "REPORT ABUSE" button on the school website.

Roles and Responsibilities

1. Everyone in school is expected to:
 - Act in a respectful and supportive way towards one another.
 - Adhere to and promote the objectives of this policy.
2. Pupils are expected to:
 - Report all incidents of bullying and suspected incidents which other pupils may be afraid to report.
 - Support each other and seek help to ensure that everyone feels safe, and nobody feels excluded or afraid in school. Students can report bullying to any member of staff, in particular their form tutor or Pastoral Leader, to peer mentors or Senior Students and if they feel unable to speak with someone then they can report bullying via the student mail box situated in reception.
3. Parents can help by:
 - Supporting our anti-bullying policy and procedures.
 - Letting us know of any concerns about bullying that their child might have.
 - Helping to establish an anti-bullying culture outside school.

- Making themselves aware of e-safety issues, monitoring their child's on-line activities and phone use and adhering to our Acceptable Use of ICT protocols and mobile phone policy.

Monitoring

- Regular discussions at Pastoral and Year Team Meetings as cases arise and informed discussion between staff.
- Parents are asked to keep us informed if problems continue.
- The Policy is reviewed on a regular basis and amended as necessary to reflect any changes in practice.
- Bullying incidents are discussed at Annual Review meetings for Special Needs pupils.
- The Family Liaison Officer, School Counsellor and School Nurse are asked to alert us to any problems.