

Anti-Bullying Policy

Aims

The aim of the anti-bullying policy is to ensure that students learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied.

HSE is committed to provide a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our students so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. If bullying does occur, all students should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

Bullying definition: Bullying occurs when an individual or a group uses strength or power to hurt, either physically or emotionally, by intimidating or demeaning others.

Bullying can be verbal, social, emotional, physical, sexual or cyber.

Some warning signs that a student is being bullied

- Changes in academic performance.
- Appears anxious.
- Regularly feeling sick or unwell.
- Clothes/bags torn or damaged.
- High rate of absence.
- Unexplained cuts and bruises.
- Unexplained behavior changes e.g. moody, bad-tempered, and tearful.
- Loss of weight.
- Seen alone a lot.

Procedures:

- Listen to all parties involved in incidents.
- Investigate incidents promptly and as fully as possible.
- Take appropriate action (school counselor should be informed) or to refer to the school counselor as appropriate.
- Use appropriate rewards where necessary in order to motivate and encourage students to display and promote positive behavior.
- Use appropriate methods of getting students to acknowledge their inappropriate or unacceptable behavior in order to avoid this behavior in future; hate bullying, raise awareness as to the seriousness of the behavior and enforce positive behaviors.
- Share with parents of the victim and bully, incidents of persistent and/or serious bullying.

- Promote the use of a range of learning styles and strategies which challenge bullying behavior.
- Promote the use of interventions which are least intrusive and most effective.