St. Patrick's College

Anti-Bullying Policy

2015

At St. Patrick's College we are committed to providing a caring, safe and secure environment in which every child can enjoy learning and achieve his/her potential. Our school ethos promotes respect for one another and places emphasis on developing and sustaining caring and supportive relationships. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable. All staff will endeavour to work closely with our students to eliminate bullying and to ensure any child being bullied is supported and protected.

Aims of our Anti-bullying Policy
- To create an anti-bullying culture where pupils reject bullying behaviour.
- To promote respect for one another and develop self-confidence
- To create an environment of peer support in St. Patrick's where pupils feel comfortable speaking about bullying concerns and reporting bullying when it occurs
- To provide a caring safe and secure learning environment for all our students
- To provide support for children who have experienced bullying
- To make students aware about the implications of bullying behaviour both for the victim and the person who has bullied
- To prepare students for life beyond school in the wider community

Consultation

The Anti-Bullying policy was drawn up after consultation with students, teachers, parents and governors. Students made a significant contribution through the Student Council and their views are very much at the heart of this policy. The Student Council that represents the opinions and values of the student body should be acknowledged for their input to this policy.

What is Bullying?

For many students, parents, teachers and staff bullying can mean different things:

Students identified bullying as:

Making someone feel picked on, uncomfortable.
Isolating an individual or a group of people, deliberately not including them.
Making a pupil feel insecure in the eyes of their friends, other students and making them feel excluded and alone.
Abuse, which takes the form of physical abuse, mental abuse or being socially excluded
Ganging up on a vulnerable pupil.
Making someone feel scared and hurt for a period of time.

General definition of bullying:

Bullying is repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological aggressive behaviour by a person or group directed towards a less powerful person or group that is intended to cause harm, distress or fear.
http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/what.aspx

Types of Bullying
Bullying can take many forms, including:

- *name-calling, taunting, mocking, and making offensive personal comments*
- *threatening and intimidating*
- *creating situations in which someone is humiliated, or made to look ridiculous, or gets into trouble*
- *playing tricks and pranks*
- *spitting, kicking, hitting, pushing and jostling, 'accidentally' bumping into someone several times*
- *damaging or taking belongings*
- *sending malicious text messages, emails and photographs*
- *leaving people out of groups or games or social occasions*
- *spreading hurtful and untrue rumours*

Several of these behaviours involve the use of words. Others may be non-verbal, involving body language, gesture and facial expression. Nonverbal behaviours can be just as hurtful and intimidating as those that involve abusive language. Pupils can experience different types of bullying at different ages.

Types of bullying identified by students are:

•Indirect bullying (being ignored or left out)
•Physical bullying (being hit, pushed or kicked)
•Verbal bullying (being teased or called names)

Students expressed most concern with Cyber-bullying. The Northern Ireland Anti-bullying Forum draws attention to this growing problem:
"Cyber bullying is bullying through the use of modern technology such as computers and mobile phones."

Some examples can include:

•*Receiving nasty or threatening phone calls, text messages or emails*

•*Nasty or threatening comments, photos or videos posted on chat rooms, instant messenger or social networking sites*

Cyber bullying is different from other forms of bullying because*:*

•*It can happen at any time and can intrude into spaces which are personal and previously safe, like home*

•*Electronically forwarded content is very difficult to control and can reach a large audience very quickly.*

Preventative Education

PD Lessons

Anti-Bullying Events

Pupil Campaigns - designing anti-bullying posters

Buddy system

Pastoral Assemblies

Cross–curricular approach - awareness raising relating to anti-bullying

Counselling

CrossCurricular:

During the year there are a number of planned events, campaigns and discrete lessons aimed at teaching pupils why it is wrong to bully, the effects on the person being bullied and the consequences for those that display bullying behaviour. It is important that this is pupil driven. To prevent bullying it is important to promote, recognise and reward good behaviour. Many of the strategies outlined in the Promoting Positive Behaviour strategy apply equally to our anti-bullying approach. Pupils who support the school ethos by showing respect and consideration for others will have opportunities to achieve rewards. It is important that students see good behaviour and positive relationships with others as something much more rewarding than negative behaviour.

Promoting Positive Behaviour:
Positive Teacher/Staff/Pupil relationships

Rewards Gold, Silver, Bronze rewards

Prefects and Mentors
Praise

Encouraging pupils to show concern

Encourage empathy
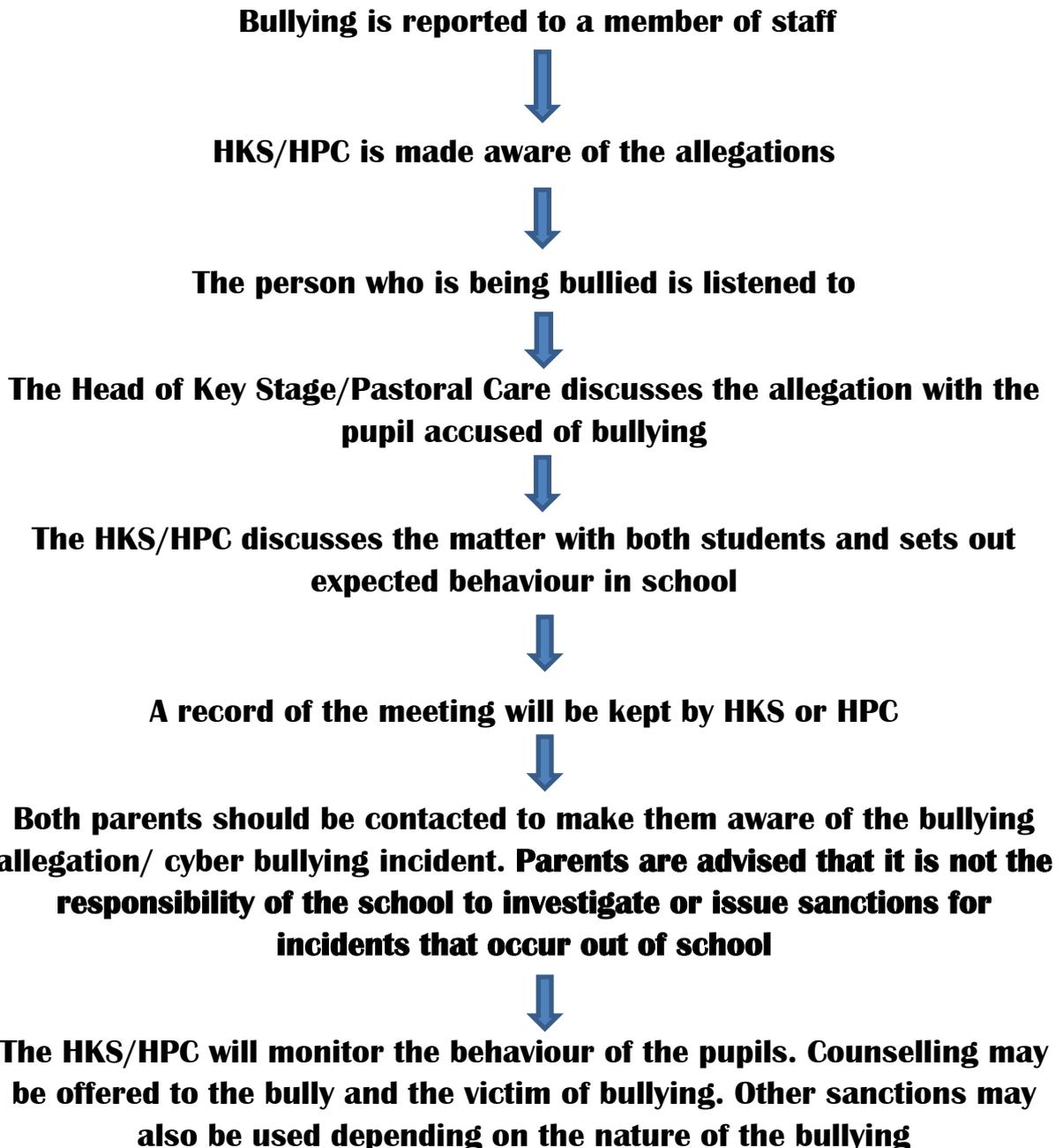Behaviour Management

Response to bullying behaviour:

- It is important that pupils who report bullying are listened to, supported and protected
- Pupils who engage in bullying behaviour should be given the opportunity to make amends and change their behaviour
- Teachers should respond effectively to low-level incidents to stop bullying behaviour from being sustained or escalating
- Many pupils say that name-calling is a very hurtful form of bullying, so it is our responsibility as teachers to challenge this behaviour when we become aware of it

Steps taken to prevent bullying in St. Patrick's:

- Teachers challenge bullying type behaviour
- The person who is being bullied is listened to
- The person who is displaying bullying behaviour is interviewed by Class teacher/Head of Key Stage/Head of Pastoral Care
- The HKS/HPC discusses the matter with both students and sets out expected behaviour. The pupils can be spoken with together if they both agree.
- A record of the meeting should be kept.
- If bullying has been shown to have occurred the HKS/HPC/Principal should decide on the appropriate level of support/sanction required.

    Teachers are often made aware of cyber-bullying incidents. If bullying takes place during school, the Head of KS/PC will investigate the matter, as set out above. The pupil who engaged in cyber- bullying may no longer be permitted to bring any personal media device to school. If the electronic device used to bully is the property of the school, the pupil's access to ICT and the internet may be restricted. To stop cyber-bullying, we would encourage pupils to save all messages received, as they may be required as evidence.

How are bullying complaints dealt with?

Bullying is reported to a member of staff

HKS/HPC is made aware of the allegations

The person who is being bullied is listened to

The Head of Key Stage/Pastoral Care discusses the allegation with the pupil accused of bullying

The HKS/HPC discusses the matter with both students and sets out expected behaviour in school

A record of the meeting will be kept by HKS or HPC

Both parents should be contacted to make them aware of the bullying allegation/ cyber bullying incident. Parents are advised that it is not the responsibility of the school to investigate or issue sanctions for incidents that occur out of school

The HKS/HPC will monitor the behaviour of the pupils. Counselling may be offered to the bully and the victim of bullying. Other sanctions may also be used depending on the nature of the bullying

The following disciplinary steps can be taken for bullying behaviour:

- official warnings to cease offending
- punishment work
- detention
- exclusion from certain areas of school premises
- internal suspension
- fixed-term exclusion
- permanent exclusion

Bullying Incident Form

Name of Student _____ **Class** _____ **Date** _____

Details of the incident: (Where it happened, who was involved, brief summary of events.)

Action taken: (Give details of all actions taken, any contact with Principal, Form Teacher parents, outside agencies like school counsellor.)

Pupil _____ **(who has suffered bullying)**

Pupil _____ **(Perpetrator of bullying)**

Follow up: (Mention how the situation has been monitored, are any further interventions needed?)

_____ **HKS/HPC** **Date** _____