



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL GRONINGEN

Statement of Intent

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere.

Students must be allowed to learn and teachers must be allowed to teach.

Therefore bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are also a caring school: **anyone** who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell a member of staff.

Objectives of this Policy

- All teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All teaching and non-teaching staff know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated at the ISG.

What is our definition of bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic because of, or focussing on, the issue of sexuality
- Verbal name-calling, spreading rumours, teasing
- Electronic bullying through all areas of internet, such as email & internet chat room, MSN or similar. Mobile threats by text messaging or calls. Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera & video facilities

Why do we think that it is important to respond to bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying others need to learn different ways of behaving.

We therefore have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.





What should YOU do if you feel you are being bullied?

1. **walk away.** Ignore the bully. Don't fight back.
2. **tell.**

Tell an adult. This can be your parent, any teaching or non teaching member of staff.

The adult **will** take you seriously.

What will the school do?

1. **ensure**, to the best of our ability, that all students feel safe and supported

2. **mediate** so that students are given the chance to resolve things peacefully

3. **help** bullies understand that their behaviour is completely unacceptable and that they must take responsibility for their actions, apologise and make amends

4. **inform** parents and, where necessary, ask them to come to a meeting to discuss the issue

5. **suspend or exclude** the bully in the most serious of cases or where all other sanctions fail.