

Gen. Anders Polish Saturday School Anti-Bullying Policy

Vision Statement

At Gen. Anders Polish Saturday School we believe that every student has a right to be in a school which is safe and secure and to be treated with dignity and respect. We will work to make our School free from intimidation and fear so that all students can learn and work in an environment where they can achieve their full potential.

The objectives of our school anti-bullying policy are to:-

- * raise awareness among staff, students and parents about bullying
- * actively counter bullying at the school
- * create a school environment where all students feel safe and welcome
- * create a climate where it is all right to talk about bullying and ask for help
- * identify and address the risk factors for the continuation of bullying by individuals

What is Bullying?

“A person or group of people being continually unpleasant or hurtful towards other people. This can be done verbally or with written words, mentally or physically, and can result in the victim or victims being hurt, isolated, unhappy and/or frightened.”

Bullying can take many forms but the most common are:

Physical – Hitting, kicking, taking belongings

Verbal – Name calling, insulting, making offensive remarks

Indirect – Spreading stories, rumours

Racist – taunts or offensive language about culture or race

Sexual – unwanted physical contact or abusive comments

Cyber – using social networking sites or mobile phones to cause offence to others

Isolating – deliberately ignoring or encouraging others to ignore students

How bullying is dealt with in Gen. Anders School

Disciplinary Route. (Where an incident of bullying is reported to a member of staff)

+ Where staff become aware of bullying, they must ensure that a record is made

+ Where necessary statements will be taken from witnesses

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+ The school discipline procedures will then follow if bullying has taken place. In serious cases of bullying this may result in exclusion from the school.

+ Records of all bullying incidents will be kept in order to monitor and review the success of the anti bullying policy.

Intervention Techniques to counter bullying

All students will be taught about the effects of bullying and the school's attitude to it in lessons.

Assembly talks by Headteacher and/or other staff

Advice to Students and Parents about reporting bullying

Students

You should report bullying by speaking to your teacher, it is their responsibility to deal with bullying in the first instance. If for some reason that this is difficult, then speak to a member of staff who you know and feel confident will deal with the matter.

Some students fear that by telling staff they will make it worse or that staff won't do anything about it. If you are worried about others finding out, or you have reported the bullying and the response still didn't stop the bullying, then you can talk to your parent.

Parents

If your child reports an incident of bullying to you concerning them or another child then please report this matter to the teacher. If they are unavailable then you can email them and ask them to phone you back. You should expect a reply within 48 hours. It is not always possible to reply within that time frame but if you do not have an early reply or if this is a serious incident which you feel cannot be delayed, then please contact Mrs Rosanna Radlinska-Tyma with responsibility for these issues.

Phone Numbers

Rosanna Radlinska-Tyma 07806612529

"We strongly advise all parents not to become directly involved in dealing with the problem. Every year we have parents who become entangled in family disputes by directly confronting their child's "bully" either personally or through texts or online. In most cases this only escalates the problem as parents will have heard only half of the story. Please work with the staff of Gen. Anders School and/or the police in order to investigate all the facts surrounding the problem behaviour."

Indicators that your child may be the victim of bullying

(Information adapted from the Kidscape Charity)

Is your child displaying any of the following?

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- doesn't want to go on the school or public bus
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- begins to truant
- becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the mornings
- begins to do poorly at school
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or go missing
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has dinner money or other money continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- comes home starving (money/lunch has been stolen)
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what is going wrong

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- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous or jumpy when a cyber message is received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered and should be investigated. Please talk to teachers if you have concerns.