

Tuke School Anti-Bullying Policy

Statement of intent

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our students so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. Students will be given every opportunity to express their feelings in the most appropriate form of communication and where possible report any form of bullying.

What is bullying?

Bullying is the use of behaviours 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, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber- All areas of internet, such as email & internet chat room misuse of mobile threats by text messaging & calls. Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera & video facilities

Young people are more likely to be bullied when they are vulnerable in some way. The young people in our school have a range of disabilities, which may increase their vulnerability to bullying. We expect students to respect our school rules so as to ensure a safe and happy learning environment for all. We aim to expose our students gradually to more demanding experiences so that they are more able to access the world outside of school.

Why is it 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. Students who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

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

Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, students and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors and teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All students and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.

- At Tuke school we take bullying seriously. Students and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be accepted and will be addressed appropriately.

We aim to support all students in their understanding of bullying in line with the five 'Every Child Matters' outcomes which means throughout their education every student has a right to access the following:

Be healthy

- Tuke School will ensure that all students know where to go and have a range of support if they feel troubled.
- Tuke School will provide support for students who are reluctant to attend school.
- At Tuke school communication will be facilitated for students who find it difficult to express themselves for example through symbols and signing.

Stay Safe

- At Tuke School students will be taught to say no through role-play and access to relevant communication systems
- The Tuke School curriculum will promote independence skills both in the school environment and within the wider community
- Staff at Tuke School will endeavour to give all students the communication skills needed to report any form of bullying
- At Tuke school students will be supported to manage their own behaviour and supported to change inappropriate behaviour.
- Staff will inform the class teacher of any incident that could be perceived as bullying

Enjoy and achieve

- At Tuke school students are set personalised IEP objectives that promote social skills, communication skills and independence skills.
- Turn taking and waiting will form part of the everyday curriculum throughout the school environment
- Positive behaviour will be modelled throughout the school by all staff at all times.

Achieve Economic Wellbeing

- Tuke school is one which focuses on 'Learning Everywhere – Inspiring Everyone'
- At Tuke school we give students opportunities to develop functional communication skills through the use of strategies such as intensive interaction, Picture exchange systems, communication books and providing a responsive environment
- At Tuke school we publish both student's rights and the students charter documents which are visible in all areas of the school and which staff and visitors are actively encouraged to adhere to.

- At Tuke school Students will have access to and be taught to use ICT across the curriculum and use of the Internet will be monitored closely.
- Tuke School will form links with the community to develop relationships with less familiar people and different environments.
- At Tuke school students will have opportunities to develop leisure and social skills with a range of physical and sensory activities both inside and outside the building
- Tuke school students will be encouraged to be as independent as possible and choice making will be promoted through functional activities at all times

Make a positive contribution

- Tuke school celebrates students achievement and good behaviour through a variety of initiatives such as Good News Assembly, Lunchtime Awards, school display boards, and the Jack Petchy Awards
- Tuke School gives students the opportunity to participate in activities, which form links with outside agencies and other schools such as, sports events and creative projects.
- All Tuke school students should have opportunities to take part in school celebrations, productions and school journeys
- At Tuke school students work can be recorded within ASDAN and Progress Files which are both nationally recognised and can be taken with the students when they leave to share with others
- Tuke school is supportive of parents and offers advice and training if required.
- We encourage parent participation in their children's education and invite parents to join in class activities and coffee mornings where appropriate
- The school council will be involved in reviewing the students rights charter documents
- Students with challenging behaviours will have a consistent-handling plan agreed by staff and parents to support their behaviour.

Identifying possible bullying

What we look out for at Tuke School

- Students becoming over interested in another student
- Inappropriate physical contact between students
- More able students asserting themselves with vulnerable students.
- Students looking scared and distressed

Procedures

- Report suspected bullying incidents to class teacher
- Frequency of incidents may be recorded
- Update consistent handling plans
- Behaviours addressed through role play and PSHE
- Reconciliation

Outcomes

Constant review and monitoring

Prevention

The school will explicitly promote social, emotional and behavioural skills through the PSHE Curriculum and assemblies

Other methods for helping children to prevent bullying may include:

- Taking part in the national anti-bullying week in November
- Writing a set of school rules through the school council
- Following a behaviour contract
- Writing/listening to stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- Reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- Making up role-plays
- Having discussions about bullying and why it matters

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) 020 7354 8321

Children's Legal Centre 0845 345 4345

KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4) 0845 1 205 204

Parentline Plus 0808 800 2222

Youth Access 020 8772 9900

Bullying Online www.bullying.co.uk