

DEFINITIONS & AIMS

Bullying is:

- The use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person
- Repeated over a period of time, sometimes by one person on many others
- Difficult for targets to defend themselves against

Bullying takes many forms:

- **Cyber-bullying:*** including negative text messaging, phone calls, emails, chat rooms, social networking sites and misuse of associated technology *i.e.* cameras and video
- **Emotional:** including excluding people from social groups, taking belongings, humiliation, ridicule and tormenting
- **Homophobic:** because of, or focussing on, the issue of sexuality
- **Physical:** including hitting, kicking, pushing, taking and damaging belongings and other forms of violence
- **Racist:** including racist taunts, graffiti and gestures
- **Sexual:** including unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- **Verbal:** including name calling+, taunting / teasing, mocking, making offensive comments and threats and gossiping with the intent of spreading rumours

*Cyber-bullying, name calling and hostile mobile text messages are the most common direct form of bullying.

+This may be directed at certain specific characteristics including; ethnic origin, colour of skin, sexual orientation, disability, body shape and other physical characteristics.

At Bideford College:

- We aim to educate students and staff to appreciate that all bullying is wrong
- Every student has the right to be safe and to be protected when s/he is feeling vulnerable
- Everyone should feel valued
- Individual differences are appreciated, understood and accepted
- We want a secure, happy and caring environment
- Kindness, sensitivity and helpfulness are expected
- We teach respect for self and others
- We will work with other external support agencies to ensure the safety of all

REPORTING BULLYING

Bideford College is a school which believes in openness and honesty. All students and staff are encouraged to report incidents of bullying that they have witnessed or where they are targets.

At Bideford College we will:

- Encourage an anti-bullying atmosphere in all that we do, so that bullying is less likely to occur.
- Encourage targets and witnesses to talk to someone about bullying.
- Treat all incidents seriously however trivial they may seem at first glance.
- Be alert for changes in behaviour, attitude and well-being.
- Listen to parent/carer concerns.
- Ask that targets/witnesses help the investigation by making sure that everything the aggressor/s have done or said is recorded.

WHAT WE WILL DO WHEN A BULLYING INCIDENT IS REPORTED

Procedure

- An incident of bullying is reported to staff, either by the person being bullied or a third person. This extends to incidents that take place outside the school day, during offsite activities or to and from college.
- The suspected or reported bullying incident will be investigated thoroughly, including interviewing students confidentially and taking statements.
- If confirmed the details will be recorded on the schools monitoring system. All key staff will be notified.
- Parents of all the students involved will be involved and may be asked to come in for a meeting to discuss the problem.
- In certain cases where a crime has been committed, the police will be informed.
- In certain cases the incident will be reported to the Local Authority.

Outcomes:

Each incident of bullying is unique and the action taken will vary with each situation. Below are a range of interventions that may be employed;

- Speaking to the bully about their actions; in most cases this will stop the bullying
- Asking the students concerned to write down how they are feeling. This can calm the situation down and helps the person dealing with it understand why it may have occurred.
- Asking the bully/bullies to sign an agreement for it to stop.
- Asking the bully/bullies to make a genuine apology in person or in writing.

- Supporting students in reconciling differences. This can be done through tutors, Heads of House or Sixth Form mentors. This may include restorative work where appropriate. Mediation may be arranged through an outside agency if appropriate, including the police.
- Issuing a sanction in line with the college's behaviour policy, including a period in the Internal Exclusion Room (IER) or time at the Off Site Centre (OSC) in more serious cases.
- Involvement of external agencies through Early Help to support the perpetrators and the victims develop strategies, resilience, positive relationships, confidence and self-esteem.
- Continued monitoring of the situation to ensure that repeated bullying does not take place.

OTHER STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS

Curriculum

There are many opportunities within subject teaching for anti-bullying issues to be discussed and explored with children.

Assemblies

Every year we use assembly time to explore, and reflect, on the issues that surround bullying in school and in the wider world.

Year 6 to Year 7 Transition

Anti-bullying strategies are developed as part of the information process at the critical time of transition from primary to secondary school.

Mid-term Admissions

Anti-bullying information will be provided to all students and parents when they apply for admission to Bideford College.

House Councils/School Council

Students will have the chance to feedback issues and develop improvements to policy via their House Councils.

Community Groups and Inter-Agency Working

We recognise that a comprehensive anti-bullying approach will involve the support and help of outside agencies. These will be approached as necessary.

HELPLINES

Childline:	0800 11 11
NSPCC helpline:	0808 800 5000
Samaritans:	01271 374343
Kidscape:	08451 205204
Bideford Police:	01237 428032



ANTI-BULLYING INFORMATION LEAFLET

"We are working with staff, students and parents/carers to create a College community where bullying is not tolerated"