



HAMPTON COURT HOUSE
Independent Co-Educational School

Anti Bullying Policy
2011 – 2012

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Anti Bullying Policy

Policy Aims

1. At Hampton Court House, we expect each pupil to work together with the staff to prevent any form of bullying. If a pupil is being made unhappy by another pupil – or if a pupil witnesses an incident in which a pupil is being unpleasant to another – then we expect that pupil to report this immediately to a teacher. Pupils are regularly reminded (through assemblies and tutorials) of the anti-bullying policy.
2. We are determined that Hampton Court House be a happy and harmonious place, free from bullying. The school will not allow any individual to spoil the happiness of others.

What is Bullying?

3. Bullying is the act 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
 - Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing

Differences are celebrated at Hampton Court House; anything which negatively focuses on differences is bullying and is wrong.

Some examples are:

- Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive or inappropriate comments
- Homophobic because of, or focussing on, the issue of sexuality

Cyberbullying

4. The use of text messages, email, or social networking sites to isolate, humiliate or spread rumours about others are serious and potentially criminal acts. The school runs seminars throughout the year on this issue. Bullying in this manner can and will lead to permanent exclusion from the school.

Procedure

5. If bullying is suspected then the concerns are immediately investigated. What happens if the suspicion is confirmed? Various courses of action may be appropriate depending on the situation.
 - a. It may be appropriate to bring the 'victim' and the bully or bullies together and talk the matter through. This reaction can often work well if it is the first occurrence of such bullying.
 - b. It may just be appropriate to tell the bully in no uncertain terms that this behaviour must not happen again. This action may be appropriate in any case of bullying but particularly if the 'victim' is younger than the bully.
6. Which member of staff will deal with the situation? It could be the form tutor or the Head of Pastoral Care or the Head of Upper / Lower School. The Head of Upper School, though, will always be informed. It is likely that the parents of both parties will also be informed.
7. If the bullying occurs again, then the parents will be brought into the discussions. It may be necessary to exclude a pupil or, in extreme cases, permanently exclude a pupil. We will not tolerate bullying at Hampton Court House.
8. In keeping with the School's ethos of transparency, it is equally important that members of staff are scrupulously fair in their dealings with the pupils in their care.