

## **BULLYING & PREVENTION POLICY**

Bullying is defined as "unwanted negative behaviour, which is verbal, social, physical or cyber in nature conducted by an individual or group against another person (or persons) and which is repeated over time, involving a power imbalance". Scholars believes any of the following acts defines bullying, if something or someone:

1. Physically/psychologically harms a student or damages the student's property;
2. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education;
3. Is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
4. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying further include name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments; kicking; hitting; taking belongings; producing offensive graffiti; gossiping; excluding people from groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours. This also includes the same inappropriate and harmful behaviours expressed via digital devices (cyberbullying), such as the sending of inappropriate messages by phone, text, Instant Messenger, through websites and social media sites and apps, and sending offensive or degrading images by mobile phone or via the internet.

Scholars Indian Private School has zero tolerance for bullying. The National Bullying Prevention Week, conducted under the patronage of Moral Education MoE, was celebrated with many speeches and videos causing awareness. The momentum thus created will be carried out throughout the year.

The school's code of conduct regarding bullying is as follows:

- Any student who engages in bullying may be subject to disciplinary action according to the school's Rewards and Sanctions Policy and go up to and including suspension or expulsion.
- Students are expected to immediately report incidents of bullying to the Principal or Counsellor.
- Students can rely on staff to promptly investigate each complaint of bullying in a thorough and confidential manner.
- If the complainant student or the parent of the student feels that appropriate resolution of the investigation or complaint has not been reached, the student or the parent of the student should contact the principal or the school office.

### **Cyber Bullying**

The use of electronic communication to bully a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature.

#### **1. Prevention of Cyber Bullying**

- It is important that we work with students and parents to educate them about Cyber Bullying.
- They should
  - Understand how to use these technologies safely and know about the risks and consequences of misuse.

- Know what to do if a person or someone else they know are being cyber bullied.
- Report any problems with respect to cyber bullying to the guardian (at home) or e-safety Officer (at school).

2. Support the child being bullied

- Reassuring the child and encouraging him/her to inform parents.
- Make sure the child does not respond to the bullying.
- Help the child save evidences for investigation.
- Tell the child to block the bully.
- Take appropriate action to contain the incident wherever possible.

Please do not:

1. Attempt to sort the problem out yourself by speaking to the child whom you think may be behaving inappropriately towards your child or by speaking to their parents.
2. Encourage your child to be 'a bully' back. Both of these will only make the problem much harder to solve.

School will also partner with parents to make sure they are aware about the policies and also in its implementation.

Once a bullying issue is reported to a member of staff, they will then meet with the student (s) involved and make some notes about what has been happening. They will listen to the student, give them support and deal with the issue appropriately. The student will be able to discuss with the member of staff how they would like the issue to be dealt with, e.g. whether or not they would like a meeting with the bully.

There is an anti-bullying report box in the Student Reception where any student can anonymously report an incident of bullying. This box will be checked every day.

To ensure adherence and support during e-learning there is a provision of filling up an on-line Incident Report Form, which will be forwarded to the Online Safety Leader (The Principal) for further action.

Any students involved in bullying incidents will be offered help with strategies to enable them to identify and stop any bullying behaviour in the future.

**Adopted: April, 2018**

**Reviewed and updated: March, 2022**

  
**Hameed Ali Yahya K. M.**  
**Principal**

