



6th October 2023

Anti-bullying

Dear Parent

We all want our children to be happy and safe, and it is natural to worry about bullying - particularly if we have experienced bullying ourselves or think our child may be more vulnerable to bullying. The good news is you are not alone! Oasis Academy Sholing is here to work with children and families to help keep children safe.

Last week I delivered assemblies dedicated to anti-bullying, explaining what it is, making clear who your child can report incidents to, and the support Oasis Sholing provides. Moreover, we have been advertising the work our anti-bullying ambassadors do in school and encouraging students to apply and take advantage of this opportunity to support others.

I have also included an attachment to this letter which provides a helpful Department for Education definition of bullying, and some examples of what bullying is alongside how to spot the signs. The document also shows what action we take against the perpetrators and the support we offer for those affected.

Lastly, every November schools throughout the United Kingdom take part in Anti-bullying Week. This is an opportunity to spotlight bullying and consider the steps we can take together to stop it. Anti-bullying Week 2023 will take place from Monday 13th to Friday 17th November, with the theme 'Make a noise about bullying'.

Your sincerely

Mr D Cheeseman

Assistant Principal

Principal - Martin Brown

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Definition of bullying, examples of bullying and how Oasis Academy Sholing takes action

Defined as behaviour that is:

- **repeated**
- **intended** to hurt someone either physically or emotionally
- often aimed at certain groups, for example because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation

It takes many forms and can include:

- physical assault
- teasing
- making threats
- name calling
- cyberbullying - bullying via mobile phone or online (for example email, social networks and instant messenger)

Student action for reporting bullying

- Students are expected to take responsibility for reporting to staff any incidents that have not been witnessed.
- Students must inform their tutor in the first instance (or any trusted adult if tutor is not available) if an incident, that may seem minor, is repeated. Any incident that has a negative impact on the student (victim) must be reported.
- Students that experience a one off serious incident must inform their Year Group Mentor/ Head of Year
- The examples below should help explain the rationale behind placing ownership on reporting incidents onto students:

Example 1: George had his pen deliberately knocked off his desk. The teacher has seen the incident, reprimanded the student and given them a verbal warning. This incident on its own, albeit unpleasant and unacceptable is not bullying. It becomes bullying if the following situation occurs: the perpetrator has knocked George's pen off his desk in every lesson that day and repeats this on a daily basis. This incident on its own without it being repeated is not bullying. However, the persistent and repeated nature of this act makes it bullying.

Example 2: Grace has a new haircut and receives unpleasant comments from students. A teacher on duty at lunch hears this and challenges the students making the unkind comments, and says if this continues, they will have a detention set. The students make no further comments – bullying has not taken place. The next day a different student teases Grace about her hair and says it without any staff members hearing. The student continues to make these comments every time she sees Grace – this is bullying due to its persistent nature. If Grace does not tell anyone the school or parents will not be able to help her and Grace is likely to become upset. If Grace informs her tutor that this is happening, then it can be investigated, the student sanctioned, and the bullying is more likely to stop than if she kept it to herself.

Action for Dealing with Bullying

Step 1

- Low level incidents reported to tutor.
- Restorative meeting with everyone involved
- All parents contacted
- Sanction
- Year Group Mentor check in after 1 week

Step 2

- Year Group Mentor notified and investigate
- All parents contacted
- Interventional work for the student
- Sanction
- Head of Year check in after 1 week

Step 3

- Head of Year notified and investigate
- All parents contacted
- Other external agency support put in place as required e.g no limits
- Potential involvement of police
- Perpetrator on Senior Leader report - 2 weeks
- Sanction
- Senior Leader check in after 1 week

At Oasis Sholing, we acknowledge that not all incidents occur when one student is involved. For this reason, we sanction and provide support for all students that have been present during these incidents and as such treat them all consistently.