

SCIS Lower School Anti-Bullying Guidelines

Philosophy

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our students so that they can learn in a secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable and not tolerated at our school. If bullying does occur, all students should be able to tell a staff member or administrator about the incident, and know that it will be dealt with swiftly and effectively.

What is bullying?

Bullying is the use of ongoing aggression with the intention of hurting another person physically, emotionally, and/or socially. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional – being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures, etc.)
- Physical – pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist – racial taunts, graffiti, gestures, etc.
- Sexual – unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic – Focusing on issues of sexuality
- Verbal – name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumors, teasing
- Cyber – emails, mobile threats by text messaging and call, and misuse of associated technology

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.

Signs and symptoms

A child may indicate in words, signs or behavior that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these signs and report them to the child's teacher or the school counselor if the child:

- is frightened of walking to and from school
- doesn't want to go on the school bus
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- begins to do poorly at school
- comes home with clothes torn or materials damaged
- comes home with unexplained cuts and bruises
- becomes disruptive, aggressive or unreasonable
- is bullying others or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what is wrong
- is afraid to use the internet (cyber bullying) or phone

These signs and behaviors could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and investigated further.

Procedures:

1. Report the bullying incident to your child's teacher.
2. The incident is investigated by school administration.
3. Parents may be notified, depending on the severity of the incident, and asked to come in for a meeting with school administration.
4. The school will deal with bullying behavior or threats of bullying immediately and appropriate consequences will be administered.

Action: (with reconciliation of the student being the goal)

1. Contact parents
2. Have the bully apologize for his or her behavior.
3. Have the bully (bullies) meet with an administrator.
4. Participate in small group or individual counseling.
5. In serious cases, in school suspension of the bully (bullies) will take place.
6. After the incident/incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.
7. In extreme cases continued enrollment of the student would be examined.