

Policy 9.2 Anti-bullying

Statement of Intent

The American School of Paris is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our students to learn in a supportive and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school and we will thoroughly investigate all claims. If bullying does occur, every student shall be able to confide in an adult they trust. This applies not only to incidents inside, but also to incidents outside the school environment that directly impacts the student's ability to learn and feel safe. Any issue of that kind can be addressed to the school and will be dealt with confidentially.

Definition of Bullying

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both young people who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting impact.

In order to be considered bullying, the behavior must be aggressive and include:

- An Imbalance of Power: People use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- Repetition: Bullying behaviors occur more than once or have the potential to be repeated.

Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, physical or verbal attacks—for a particular reason, e.g. physical appearance, gender, sexual orientation, and intentional exclusion from a group.

See Appendix 1: Bullying Categories and Specific Behaviors.

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. Bullying should not be normalized and seen as a natural part of growing up (e.g. "Boys will be boys.", "Bullying happens to everyone."). No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everyone has the right to be treated with respect. Students who bully

need to learn different ways of behaving. Bystanders¹ need to understand how they contribute to bullying and recognize their responsibility to be Upstanders.² Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

The Objectives of this Policy are:

- To ensure the entire-ASP community knows our policy on bullying and what to do if bullying arises,
- To make-clear that, as a school, we take bullying seriously, and to assure students and parents that they will be supported when bullying, both inside and outside the school environment, is reported,
- To establish and maintain a clear norm that bullying in any form will not be tolerated,
- To provide students with prevention and intervention strategies to help them stay safe within school and in the community at large.

What to Do When Bullying Occurs

We expect anyone who knows that bullying is happening to tell a trusted adult in the school. This trusted adult will, in turn, consult School Counselors, School Nurses or Division Directors to determine an immediate action plan. The school is committed to developmentally appropriate responses. ***See Division Handbooks below for specific procedures and reference our Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures**

Appendix 1: Bullying Categories and Specific Behaviors

Verbal Bullying is saying or writing mean things. The goal is to degrade and demean the victim, while making the aggressor look dominant and powerful. Verbal bullying includes but is not limited to:

- Name-calling, teasing.
- Making fun of or being disrespectful of another person's: a) physical characteristics, b) nationality, c) religion, d) race, e) sexual orientation, f) physical differences, g) family problems (i.e. divorce), h) ability to learn, i) athletic ability j) financial status, k) dress
- Using targeted inappropriate language (i.e. swearing).
- Spreading lies or rumors about a person.
- Laughing at another's misfortune.
- Inciting others to fight or bully someone in any way.

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- Putting people down.

Online Bullying

Online Bullying is the use of technology (social networking, messaging, text messages, email, chat rooms etc.) to harass, threaten or intimidate someone for the same reasons as stated above.

Online bullying can take many forms

- Inappropriate, abusive or threatening texts, emails or messages
- Posting abusive comments on social media sites
- Sharing humiliating videos or photos of someone else
- Stealing someone's online identity
- Spreading rumors online
- Trolling – sending someone menacing or upsetting messages through social networks, chat rooms or games
- Developing hate sites about another person
- Anonymous messaging
- Encouraging a young person to self-harm
- Sexting

Threatening

- Coercing someone to comply with the bully's requests.
- Using antagonistic language towards someone (i.e. saying things like, "I don't like the way you're looking at me!").

Social Exclusion

Denying a person's full access to various rights, opportunities and resources that are normally available to members of a group. These rights are fundamental to social integration.

Social exclusion can take many forms -

- Not allowing someone to play with or participate in your group.
- Forming a circle or group on the playground or in the hallways so that another person cannot join in.

- Speaking with a group so that one person is excluded either because of the language or slang being used by a group.
- Ignoring a person.
- Refusing to be someone's friend or a group pressuring others to isolate someone or exclude them as a friend.
- Refusing to allow someone her or his place in a line or on a bus.

Physical Bullying involves hurting a person's body or possessions. Physical bullying includes:

- Pushing or shoving someone, hitting someone, poking or jabbing someone with hands or fingers or objects such as pencils or sticks.
- Grabbing someone's clothes (i.e. taking off someone's hat and throwing it down or giving it to someone else or grabbing a person's clothes with the intent to tear them).
- Fighting.
- Hitting/kicking/pinching
- Spitting
- Tripping/pushing
- Taking or breaking someone's things
- Making mean or rude hand gestures

Vandalism - action involving deliberate destruction of or damage to public or private property.

- Damaging someone's personal possessions or property
- Writing on someone's notebook or binder.
- Writing on the school walls or school property

Extortion or Theft - when the bully forces their victims to give away their possessions. Often this will be accompanied by a threat of physical or verbal harm.

- Taking someone's lunch money or homework
- Taking someone else's lunch.
- Taking or hiding something that belongs to someone else.

Divisional Handbooks -
[Upper School](#)

Middle School
Lower School

Resources -

<https://www.stompoutbullying.org/bullying-bystanders-become-upstanders>

<http://www.upstand.org/>

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/bullying-prevention-resources>

<https://www.pacer.org/bullying/resources/sites-for-kids-and-teens.asp>

<https://www.prevnet.ca/resources/websites>

<https://www.antibullying.net/resourceswwwlinks.htm>

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/resources/external>

<https://www.teachwire.net/news/anti-bullying-week-resources>

<https://www.oecd.org/education/skills-beyond-school/33868117.pdf>

Contributing Schools -

American School of London

ACS International Schools

GEMS Wellington International School

International School Modena

British International School Istanbul