



ANTI BULLYING

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Statement of Intent

At University of Chester Academies Trust (UCAT) we are committed to providing a caring and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying behaviour of any kind is unacceptable at our Academies. If bullying behaviour does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. As a Trust we take a zero tolerance approach to bullying behaviour in all its forms and consider it a most serious offence.

Aims

With regard to the elimination of bullying, it is the aim of UCAT to create a culture that:

- enables individuals to Believe in themselves and in their ability, as well as in others
- cultivates within our students and staff a true sense that they Belong to a family that cares for them and supports them
- enriches and extends their learning so that each can Become the individual they aspire to be.

Definition of Bullying

"Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages or the internet."¹

Bullying is deliberate hurtful behaviour that is repeated, often over a period of time, and where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. There are instances when it could be a one off event. Bullying is not, of course, restricted to relationships between pupils. Bullying can also be a problem in adult life and occur in the workplace.

Teachers, therefore, are not immune from bullying within their professional life. Indeed, within a complex organisation, like a school, bullying may occur between any individuals, regardless of role, age, gender or race.

What does bullying look like?

Bullying can include (list not exhaustive):

- name calling
- taunting
- mocking
- humiliating
- making offensive comments or gestures
- physical assault - pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching, threats and other forms of violence
- taking or damaging belongings
- cyber bullying - inappropriate text messaging and e mailing; sending offensive or degrading images by phone or via the internet
- producing offensive graffiti
- gossiping and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours
- excluding people from groups.
- Persistent teasing

Although bullying can occur between individuals it can often take place in the presence (virtually or physically) of others who become the 'bystanders' or 'accessories'.

¹DfE - Preventing and tackling bullying Advice for head teachers, staff and governing bodies October 2014

Why are children and young people bullied?

Specific types of bullying may include:

- bullying related to race, religion or culture
- bullying related to special educational needs or disabilities
- bullying related to appearance or health
- bullying relating to sexual orientation or sexual identity
- bullying of young carers or looked after children or otherwise related to home circumstances
- sexist or sexual bullying

Possible Signs

Pupils who are being bullied may show the following types of behaviour. Their behaviour may change from how they were presenting previously.

- Anxious, reserved, insecure or shy;
- Aggressive, argumentative, moody ;
- Variety of physical symptoms, headache/stomach ache, going regularly to the nurse/first aider ;
- Unaccountable repeated loss of money/property/bags ;
- Truancy or feigning illness ;
- Low self-esteem and low self confidence ;
- Pupils isolated or disengaged ;
- Cuts, bruises, torn or ruffled clothing;
- Outgoing pupils become withdrawn.

It is important that staff who know pupils well and observe these changes are alert and observant to identify anyone who is struggling as early as possible.

Procedures

All Trust staff must be vigilant and responsive to bullying behaviour. Staff supervision within the academy environment should be consistent (before/after school, between lessons, breaks and lunchtimes).

Procedures for dealing with both victims and bullies will be dealt with consistently in accordance with the Behaviour for Learning Policy, e-Safety and ICT Acceptable Use Policy.

All incidents must be reported to the relevant member of Pastoral Staff and logged in their pastoral records whether the incident has taken place on the academy site or the pupil has disclosed concerns of bullying elsewhere. Accurate records are essential so patterns and frequency can influence the decisions made about how best to intervene. Records must include details of who, where, when, what happened, what action taken, and any follow up. Staff will look to obtain advice from any outside agencies as appropriate.

Staff will work closely with parents/carers of all involved throughout any allegations until the matter is resolved.

Awareness Raising

Work undertaken in PSHE, form time, national anti-bullying week and assemblies can be valuable in raising awareness of the issue and reminding that bullying behaviour is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

There are dedicated pages on the Academy websites to signpost information and to identify peer support systems.

Specialist organisations that can offer support.

<https://www.kidscape.org.uk/>

www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/

www.nspcc.org.uk