

Policy No.: TIADPolicy\_Academics\_2021/10

Policy created in September 2019

Policy Reviewed in April 2020

Policy Reviewed again in April 2021

**Important Note:** The school has adopted Distance Learning Programme (DLP) and Blended Learning Programme (BLP) for the Academic Year 2021-22. This policy is designed for a regular school set-up and will also be integrated during the DLP/BLP.

## **PEER TO PEER ABUSE POLICY**

### **Aim & Intention**

Children and young people may be destructive to one another in many ways that would be classified as peer on peer abuse. The purpose of this policy is to explore the many forms of peer abuse and include a planned and helpful response to the issues.

### **Introduction to abuse and destructive behaviour**

Unmannerly behaviour can happen to pupils in schools and settings and it is necessary to consider what abuse is and how it can be managed and the appropriate help, guidance and intervention to be in place to meet the needs of the individuals and preventive actions to be taken to reduce further risk or harm.

### **Types of Abuse**

#### **Physical Abuse**

- Physical injury to a child whether deliberately inflicted or knowingly
- A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.
- Prior to taking appropriate action the incident needs to be investigated and studied to find why the child engaged in such a behaviour.

#### **Sexual violence and sexual harassment**

- The activities may involve physical contact, including inappropriate sexual language, physical contact, sexual assault including touching outside of clothing.
- They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

#### **Sexting**

These are often 'shared' via social networking sites and instant messaging services. 'Sexting' relates to the sending of indecent images, videos or written messages which are created and sent electronically

#### **Bullying (including Cyberbullying)**

**Bullying and Interpersonal Abuse:** All students have a right to learn in a safe environment without fear. Bullying can undermine and even prevent students from progressing academically and socially and it can have lifelong negative consequences for both the victim and the bully. We therefore have zero tolerance for bullying. All students involved in bullying will be disciplined and receive appropriate counseling and support from the school, whether the bullying is physical, social, conducted in cyber space or verbal.

#### **Refer Antibullying Contract and school Behaviour Policy**

The School has zero tolerance for Cyber bullying and media misuse for defamation purposes. **Refer Internet Safety policy.**

**Cyberbullying:**

This involves sending inappropriate or hurtful text messages, emails or instant messages such as posting on social networking websites or sending degrading images and videos.

**Racist and Religious Bullying:**

A range of hurtful behaviour, both physical and psychological, that makes a person feel unwelcome, excluded or worthless because of their colour, ethnicity, culture, faith, national status etc.

**Sexual, Sexist and Transphobic Bullying:**

This includes any behaviour, whether physical or non-physical, where sexuality is used as a weapon by boys or girls.

**Homophobic Bullying:**

This targets someone because of their sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation.

**Disabled Bullying:**

This targets a young person solely based on their disability. This can include manipulative bullying where a culprit forces/exploits a certain aspect of the victim's disability.

It is important to remember that bullying can also be a combination of the above.

**What to do when a student is bullied?**


The Student:

1. Reaches out to the trusted adult at school / home and through them reach out to the Child Protection Lead/ Deputy Child Protection Lead. Inform your School Principal. If the case is serious it needs to be escalated to the Group Operations Manager.

**The Child Protection Leads & Safety Committee Team**

1. Listen carefully and calmly, and documents what the student conveys.
2. Collect extra information.
3. Examine a plan of action with student(s).
4. Deliver guidance and support on what to do if bullying occurs again.
5. Pen down a date for follow up review/s
6. Records the incident
7. Notify the required personnel
8. Contacts the parent/guardian about the incident and next steps.
9. Regular follows up with student(s) in the upcoming weeks

Signed by:

  
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**Ms. Susan Rubin Varghese**  
**Principal**

Date: 01.04.2021