Anti-Bullying Policy

Foundation

"عَنْ جَابِرٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ﷺ قَالَ:"اتَّقُوا الظُّلْمَ، فَإِنَّ الظُّلْمَ ظُلُمَاتٌ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ

Jābir (رضي الله عنه) reported that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "Beware of ظلم (oppression), for indeed oppression will be darknesses on the Day of Judgment." (Sahih Muslim)

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ also said: "A Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hand others are safe." (Bukhari & Muslim)

These teachings form the foundation of this policy. Bullying, in all its forms, is a manifestation of ظلم (oppression) and is therefore strictly prohibited.

Policy Aims and School Vision

At iSchool Online, we recognise that a child's education is one of the most significant responsibilities entrusted to parents and educators. Education is not limited to academic attainment; rather, it encompasses the development of character, values, and behaviour that shape an individual's future. We believe that the attitudes and principles instilled during a child's educational journey will influence how they interact with others and contribute to society.

Our vision is to provide a safe, structured, and purposeful learning environment in which every student feels valued and protected. We welcome students from diverse educational backgrounds and with varied aspirations, and we are committed to supporting each individual in achieving their full potential. Central to this vision is the establishment of a culture rooted in respect, kindness, accountability, and high expectations.

We aim to cultivate a community in which students actively participate in their learning, demonstrate integrity in their conduct, and contribute positively to the wider school environment. Holistic development is a key priority, and we strive to equip students with the emotional, social, and moral tools necessary to navigate both digital and real-world interactions responsibly.

Introduction

At iSchool Online, bullying is regarded as entirely unacceptable. It undermines a student's dignity, damages their emotional and psychological well-being, and hinders their ability to engage fully in education. As such, the school adopts a zero-tolerance approach to bullying in all its forms.

The school acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. This policy operates in conjunction with the school's Behaviour Policy, Safeguarding Policy, and other relevant procedures, and is informed by statutory guidance, including Keeping Children Safe in Education and the Equality Act 2010.

All reported incidents of bullying are taken seriously. The school is committed to investigating concerns thoroughly, responding appropriately, and implementing measures to prevent recurrence. We also work in partnership with parents and carers to support students both within and beyond the school environment.

Aims of the Policy

This policy is designed to ensure that all students can learn in an environment free from fear, intimidation, or harm. Students who experience bullying are often unable to concentrate fully on their studies, and the long-term impact on their confidence and well-being can be significant.

Through this policy, the school seeks to demonstrate its firm stance against bullying and outline clear procedures for prevention, reporting, and response. It also aims to support students in understanding their responsibilities towards others and to promote a culture of mutual respect and accountability.

Definition of Bullying

Bullying is defined as behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally causes physical or emotional harm to another individual or group. It often involves an imbalance of power, making it difficult for the victim to defend themselves.

Bullying is characterised by actions that are deliberately hurtful, targeted, and persistent. It may occur even where the individual responsible does not fully recognise the impact of their behaviour. The key consideration is both the behaviour itself and its effect on the victim.

Forms of Bullying

Bullying may manifest in various forms, including emotional, verbal, physical, and online behaviour. It may involve exclusion, intimidation, name-calling, spreading rumours, or damaging property. In an online setting, cyberbullying may occur through messaging platforms, social media, or other digital communication tools.

The school also recognises that bullying may be motivated by prejudice or discriminatory attitudes. This includes behaviour targeting an individual's background, characteristics, or perceived differences. Such behaviour is treated with particular seriousness due to its harmful and divisive nature.

Prevention

The most effective approach to bullying is prevention. At iSchool Online, this is achieved through the consistent promotion of positive values and behaviour across all aspects of school life.

Students are regularly reminded of the importance of respect, kindness, and responsibility through lessons, assemblies, and everyday interactions with staff. The curriculum provides opportunities to discuss relationships, communication, and the impact of behaviour on others. Staff members model appropriate conduct and reinforce expectations consistently.

The school fosters an environment in which students feel confident to express concerns and seek support. Parents and carers are also provided with guidance on supporting their children, particularly in relation to online safety and communication.

Reporting

Students are encouraged to report any concerns relating to bullying, whether as a victim or a witness. Reports can be made to any member of staff, who will ensure that the concern is passed to the appropriate personnel for investigation.

The school places strong emphasis on creating a culture in which students feel safe and supported when raising concerns. Staff are trained to respond appropriately, ensuring that all reports are taken seriously and handled with sensitivity.

Recording

All incidents of bullying are formally recorded and monitored. This enables the school to identify patterns, implement targeted interventions, and ensure that appropriate action is taken. Records are maintained in line with safeguarding procedures and are used to inform ongoing support and preventative measures.

Response to Bullying

When bullying is identified, the school will respond promptly and proportionately. Investigations will be conducted thoroughly, with due consideration given to all parties involved. Parents or carers will be informed where appropriate.

Consequences for bullying behaviour are applied in line with the school's Behaviour Policy and may range from warnings and behaviour plans to more serious sanctions, including suspension or exclusion in severe or repeated cases. Where necessary, external agencies may be involved.

At the same time, the school seeks to address the underlying causes of bullying behaviour through restorative and educative approaches. Students are supported in understanding the impact of their actions and are guided towards making positive changes.

Support for Victims

Students who experience bullying are provided with appropriate support to ensure their safety and well-being. This includes pastoral care, opportunities to discuss their experiences, and measures to rebuild confidence and self-esteem.

The school works closely with parents and carers to ensure a coordinated approach to support. Where necessary, additional services or resources may be recommended.

Gender Identity and Bullying

The school is committed to safeguarding all pupils while upholding its Islamic ethos. Islam teaches that human beings are created as male and female, forming part of the natural order established by Allah. At the same time, the school recognises that some pupils may experience personal difficulties, distress, or uncertainty relating to identity or self-expression.

Such pupils may be particularly vulnerable to bullying or harmful behaviour. The school will ensure that all students are treated with dignity, sensitivity, and respect, and that no individual is subjected to ridicule, exclusion, or harm.

Any form of bullying, including that based on perceived differences, is strictly prohibited and treated as a safeguarding concern. The school maintains a balanced approach that upholds its religious values while fulfilling its legal obligations and prioritising the safety and well-being of all pupils.

Conclusion

At iSchool Online, bullying is not simply a disciplinary matter but a serious breach of both moral and educational responsibility. The school is committed to fostering an environment in which all students are safe, respected, and able to thrive.

Through the combined efforts of staff, students, and parents, we seek to uphold a culture that reflects the highest standards of character and conduct, free from harm, and injustice.