

Constantine Middle School

**ANTI-BULLYING
POLICY**

2004-2005

Statement of Intent

Our school is a place where teachers and students work together to provide a caring and safe learning environment. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, incidents will be dealt with promptly and consistently. *Anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff. This is a serious type of harassment and creates an unsafe and hostile learning environment.

Definition of Bullying

A wide range of physical or verbal behaviours of an aggressive or antisocial nature are encompassed by the term bullying. Many of these are outlined on pp. 22-23 in the CMS Student Handbook. Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting or intimidating another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional being hostile, excluding, intimidating, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual unwanted physical contact, sexually abusive comments, comments about sexual orientation or preference
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing

Students who are targeted by bullies often have difficulty concentrating on their school work, and their academic performance is negatively affected. Typically, bullied students feel anxious, and this anxiety may in turn produce a variety of physical or emotional ailments. Bullying hurts everyone. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect and feel safe at school.

Objectives of this Policy

- School policy on bullying will be clearly stated and consistently followed.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Students and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.
- There is some behaviour that can be classified as bullying that will be treated more severely, such as fighting, weapon possession, etc. **Please note that “self-defence” is not an acceptable excuse for fighting. Violence will not be tolerated in any form.**

Signs and Symptoms of Bullying

Bullying might be occurring if a student:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- doesn't want to go on the school bus
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- becomes withdrawn, anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions go "missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- comes home starving (money / lunch has been stolen)
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above

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

Procedures

Should a staff, parent or student become aware of a bullying incident:

1. Report bullying incidents to staff
2. The incidents will be recorded by staff
3. In serious cases parents should be contacted
4. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted
5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped immediately
6. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour

Consequences

1. Warning issued (and documentation by log entry and Bully ticket, if available)
2. Detention
3. Saturday School
4. 3-5 day suspension
5. 10 day suspension with recommendation for long-term suspension.

Note: Should the offence be severe enough the consequences may be dealt with at a higher level (i.e. fighting will be a minimum of 3 day suspension).