

Stockton Sixth Form College

Supporting Student Success

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

We aim to provide a safe environment for all our students so that learning can take place in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. The College is opposed to all forms of bullying. Such behaviour constitutes a breach of College discipline and will not be tolerated. If bullying does occur, students must know that they will be listened to and supported by the College community.

Definition of bullying

Bullying is repeated behaviour, which consciously or unconsciously, hurts, threatens, frightens or humiliates someone.

There are different sorts of bullying, but the main types are:

PHYSICAL	pushing around, hitting, kicking the victim or damaging/hiding their belongings.
VERBAL	Name calling, teasing, insulting, spreading rumours, writing or texting unkind messages, abusive telephone calls
EMOTIONAL	Excluding, ignoring, tormenting, hostile looks, gestures. Any behaviour marking out the victim as being different and unvalued
RACIAL HARRASSMENT	Physical assaults, racist graffiti, racist abuse
SEXUAL HARRASSMENT	Unwanted physical contact, abusive comments
HARRASSMENT	Abusive behaviour, sexist graffiti and comments relating to sexual orientation
PASSIVE	Being a bystander, not taking appropriate action to stop the bully i.e. not getting help

(passive bullying reinforces the power of the bully and makes the bystander partly responsible.

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Encouragement to tell

It is important that we create an atmosphere in College where students who are being bullied, or others who know about it, know they will be listened to, and that action will be swift, effective, but sensitive to their concerns.

Procedures

- Students who feel they are being bullied should approach their Tutor or any other member of staff who will then liaise with their tutor. If a student witnesses an incident of bullying, they should also approach their Tutor or another member of staff who will then liaise with their tutor.
- The tutor will record the student's account of the bullying on an Incident Report Form and liaise with Val Hart. The student will be informed that counselling and support is available within College.
- The incident will be investigated and appropriate action taken. Action will focus upon finding a solution to the problem and stopping the bullying recurring. The bully will be reminded of the possible consequences of bullying and the sanctions for repeated incidents will be clearly explained to him/her (Persistent bullies will be excluded from College).
- A record of the action will be taken
- If bullying includes racist abuse it will be reported in a Racial Incident Book.