

ANTIBULLYING POLICY STATEMENT

In accordance with our School Vision, at Trinity, we believe that the centre of our life is the Eucharist, through which we love God and also love our neighbour. We believe we are brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of God, equal in dignity to each other and before God. We must therefore never take away, in any fashion, the dignity of another person.

These values are reflected in the rules of our School and are stated as follows:-

Pupils must treat each other, visitors and staff at all times with courtesy. Pupils should address staff by their name, or by 'Miss'/'Sir', and stand when a member of staff or visitors enters a room.

The teachers and members of staff at Trinity Catholic High School (Science and Sports College) are dedicated public servants. They will show you respect - we expect the same to be returned. The harassment, or attempted intimidation of a teacher, or any member of School staff, as well as disobedience to their requests will not be tolerated: such actions will lead to permanent exclusion.

A pupil may not hurt another pupil by word, action or gesture. 'Play fighting' and hurtful 'jokes' are forbidden. The bullying of another pupil by word or deed, by an individual or group is strictly forbidden and will always be regarded as most serious misconduct. Bullying can be described as deliberately hurtful behaviour that is repeated over a period of time, and is difficult for the person being bullied to stop. It is important to note that bullying also includes:- the taking of, or deliberate damage to somebody's property, cyber-bullying through the use of defamatory or intimidating messages or images via any form of communication technology in particular social networking sites or any other messaging service, either inside, or outside of School, the harassment of another pupil or person in relation to their age, race, religious belief, special educational needs or disabilities, sexual orientation, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity and marriage/civil partnership. If at any time you feel that you are being bullied it is important that you tell someone, so that we can listen to your concerns and take action to ensure that the bullying stops. We understand that telling can be difficult however the following advice should help. You can talk to:- (a) your parents and ask them to contact the school, (b) your Form Tutor or Head of Year, (c) the Director of Site, (d) the Headmaster. You may also use our confidential e-mail address bullyingconcerns.trinity@lgfl.net. You will also have the opportunity to complete a confidential bullying questionnaire. This will allow you to raise any concerns that you may have, or allow you to show responsibility for others, by raising your concern with regard to the bullying of another pupil. Once you have raised an issue relating to bullying we will monitor the situation very closely on a daily basis (if required) for a long period of time if necessary to ensure that the bullying has completely stopped.

Anybody who engages in bullying will face a range of sanctions up to and including permanent exclusion. Students must also realise that aggression of any kind cannot be tolerated. Violence towards another pupil, or the carrying, or use of weapons, or instruments as weapons will lead to permanent exclusion. Please note that laser pens are not permitted in school as their inappropriate use can cause injury to others and may therefore be regarded in such context as a weapon.

Our School takes very seriously anything which may have an impact on School life. Accordingly, any social networking by a Trinity pupil, whatever their age or status in the School, which has a negative impact on this School, it's community, it's vision or ethos or any individual connected to our community, will face permanent exclusion and police intervention.

It is important for us, as a community, to have a clear definition of what bullying behaviour represents. The anti-bullying alliance defines such behaviour as:
'The repetitive, intention hurting of one person or a group, by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.'

It is important to note that our School's response will be proportionate to the context of each incident but the School reserves the right to refer matters to the police as appropriate and/or to employ the safeguarding measures of the School, where bullying actions can be considered to be illegal or harmful to the wellbeing and safeguarding of any individual or group.

Our School's anti-bullying provision is inclusive of the following education and support:- at the start of each academic year, all students will receive an assembly presentation on the types and forms of bullying, its possible impact on the individual and how such behaviour is managed in our School.

All students will also attend our School's Vision/Blessed Sacrament assembly, where the vision of our school and the principles of respect and tolerance for the other person will be communicated to all.

All students will have the opportunity to take part in a Pupil Voice and online bullying survey. Pupils outside of these events will be reminded of the key persons whom they can contact should they have any concerns regarding bullying behaviour within School, and these primarily are:- their form tutor, Head of Year, School Chaplain, Director of Site/Director of Sixth Form, Headmaster. Pupils will also be reminded of the confidential email bullying address that they can employ to raise a concern.

The School, through its pastoral systems, will ensure that two peer mentors (Raphaelites) are trained and appointed for each form and that these post holders have at least termly meetings with the Director of Site, to re-emphasise the nature and importance of their role.

The School's pastoral/Chaplaincy teams will also provide assembly presentations on the following themes:- personal space, prejudice, and E-Safety.

The School's anti-bullying provision will be the subject of annual review via the School Council, and parental and pupil questionnaires.