

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY. Including Cyber Bullying.

Scottish Overseas Guardianship Association.

The purpose of this policy is to support the development of respectful relationships for children and young people under the Guardianship of Scottish Overseas Guardianship Association. (SOGA)

The policy will provide guidance to SOGA members and other students on the prevention and management of bullying behavior to make safe, respectful, and positive environments where bullying behavior is never acceptable.

This policy has been written by Mrs Pam Keracher using the National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People (Scottish Government 2010) and the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014).

The approach we take at SOGA is one which operates within the context of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the GIRFEC (Getting It Right for Every Child) approach, with reference to the Equality Act (2010).

Definition of Bullying.

AIMS

Encouragement to confide.

Procedures

Recording

Definition of Bullying.

Bullying is any behavior which makes other people feel uncomfortable or threatened, whether this is intended or not. It is important to be aware that this behavior does not have to be sustained or repetitive. Bullying behavior impacts on the wellbeing of those affected, and results in a reduced sense of self-esteem.

There are many different sorts of bullying,

Main types are:

Physical • hitting, kicking, taking, or hiding belongings, including money.

Verbal • name-calling, teasing, insulting, writing unkind notes, text messages or emails.

Emotional • being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting, spreading rumors, looks.

Cyberbullying:

The NSPCC website explains that cyberbullying is bullying that takes place online.

Unlike bullying offline, online bullying can follow the child wherever they go, via social networks, gaming and mobile phone and can include:

Text: Sending threatening or abusive text messages.

Videos: Creating and sharing embarrassing images or videos.

Trolling: – the sending of menacing or upsetting messages on social networks, chat rooms or online games.

Exclusion: Excluding children from online games, activities, or friendship groups.

Shaming: Shaming someone online.

Hate: Setting up hate sites or groups about a particular child.

Self-Harm: Encouraging young people to self-harm.

Abusive Poll: Voting for or against someone in an abusive poll.

Using Other people's Names: Creating fake accounts, hijacking, or stealing online identities to embarrass a young person or cause trouble using their name.

Sexting: Sending explicit messages, also known as sexting.

Pressuring: Pressuring children into sending sexual images or engaging in sexual conversations.

Further details on the different types and signs, as well as how to help keep students safe online can be found in our online safety policy.

Prejudice based bullying • bullying behavior that is targeted directly due to actual or perceived difference/diversity.

Specifically, this will include the protected characteristics of the Equalities Act 2010: Disability, Sexual orientation, Sex, Gender reassignment/transgender, Race, Religion, and belief. People react differently.

It is not always possible to tell if someone is hurt or upset.

AIMS

The aim of our anti-bullying policy is to clarify for all that bullying is always unacceptable. We wish to create under our guardianship an environment where differences are accepted, and individuals can flourish without fear. Everyone has the right to be safe and happy, and to be protected.

Awareness, we wish to encourage all if you are being bullied, or you believe another may be getting bullied “speak up” contact SOGA’s DSL Mrs Pamela Keracher on 07762791805 or students, your Housemaster, host family or parents.

Signs of Bullying are named in the Safeguarding policy found on www.scottishoverseasguardianship.co.uk.

Encouragement to confide.

SOGA’s DSL MRs Pamela Keracher 07762791805, seeks to create an atmosphere where students who are being bullied, or others who know about it, feel that they will be listened to and believed.

When bullying behavior is reported, to SOGA DSL Mrs Pamela Keracher by Tel 07762791805 or email pamkerachersoga@hotmail.co.uk

The situation will be investigated within 5 days of the reported incident. All investigations will be sensitive to the concerns of the people involved.

SOGA will aim to redress the harm done in such a way that the conflict is resolved to the satisfaction of those involved.

Procedures:

All SOGA Members, Students, host families, office assistants, should report any incidents of suspected bullying behavior. Following SOGA’s complaints policy we would hope to solve any problem at the early stage but in more serious cases the school Head, housemaster and parents will be informed immediately.

We will follow the school guidelines and take into consideration their anti-bullying policy and procedures.

Scottish Government’s “Respect for All; The National Approach to Anti-bullying for Scotland’s Children and Young People” (November 2017). All /Any incidents will be recorded.

Students’ behavior policy found on www.scottishoverseasguardianship.co.uk Will give guidelines to our students what is acceptable and NOT acceptable behavior.

Recording

When recording an incident of bullying behavior, we will try to address the following:

- Who is involved/did anyone else witness the behavior?
- Date/time/details – when did the incident take place?
- Place – where did the incident take place?
- Nature – the nature of bullying behavior (could this invoke Child Protection Guidelines?)
- Impact – the feelings, emotions and wellbeing of the person experiencing the bullying behavior.

Some behavior may constitute as a criminal offense, for example racial or homophobic insults, assaults, and misuse of electronic communications, which may include the involvement of the police.

If you, the person having disclosed a bullying activity and you are not happy with the outcome of the procedure you may file a complaint.

To file a complaint please follow the information given in the Complaints policy. Found on the website.

www.scottishoverseasguardianship.co.uk

See: complaints policy.