

Best Theatre Arts: Anti Bullying Policy

Statement of Intent

Best is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our students so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at Best. If bullying does occur, all students should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional - being unfriendly, excluding, 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 or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic - because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber - All areas of internet ,such as email and internet chat room misuse
- Mobile - threats by text messaging and calls
- Misuse of associated technology - i.e. camera and video facilities

Objectives of this Policy

- All partners, substitute teachers and volunteers, students and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All partners, substitute teachers and volunteers should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All students and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- At Best we take bullying seriously. Students and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.



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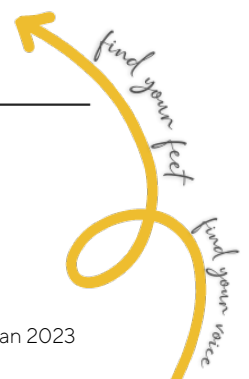
info@besttheatrearts.org.uk



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01727 759634



- Any reported incident of bullying will be investigated objectively and will involve listening carefully to all those involved

Procedures

- All bullying incidents should be reported to the School Principal
- The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated by the School Principal without delay and the bullying stopped as quickly as possible
- The incidents will be recorded by the School Principal and reported to the Designated Child Protection Person (DCPP)
- The DCPP will, where the circumstances merit, implement the Child Protection Procedure
- In cases where a child's bullying behaviour is not responding to approaches within Best parental advice will be sought and agreements made as to what action should be taken
- In all serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
- An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour

Outcomes

- Children being bullied will be supported as it is their right to learn develop and play in a safe environment.
- Children who bully will be supported and encouraged to stop bullying.
- The bully or bullies may be asked to genuinely apologise
- If possible, the students will be reconciled
- In serious cases, exclusion, temporary or permanent, will be considered
- After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.



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