

Osaka YMCA International School Anti-Bullying Policy

The aim of the anti-bullying policy is to ensure that pupils learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. Bullying is anti-social behaviour and affects everyone; it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed will pupils be able to fully benefit from the opportunities available at schools.

Bullying is defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. The three main types of bullying are:

- physical (hitting, kicking, theft)
- verbal (name calling, racist remarks)
- indirect (spreading rumours and personal attacks through email, written, text messaging and the internet; excluding someone from social groups)

Pupils who are being bullied may show changes in behaviour, such as becoming shy and nervous, feigning illness, taking unusual absences or clinging to adults. There may be evidence of changes in work patterns, lacking concentration or truanting from school. Pupils must be encouraged to report bullying in schools.

Schools' teaching and ancillary staff must be alert to the signs of bullying and act promptly and firmly against it in accordance with school policy.

Implementation

Schools

The following steps may be taken when dealing with incidents:

- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached
- A clear account of the incident will be recorded and given to the appropriate teachers and the principal
- Grade teacher will be kept informed and if it persists the grade teacher will advise specialist teachers and the Principal.
- The Principal will then conduct interviews with all parties concerned.
- Parents will be kept informed
- Punitive measures will be used as appropriate and in consultation with all parties concerned

Pupils

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with a grade teacher or member of staff of their choice

- reassuring the pupil
- offering continuous support
- restoring self-esteem and confidence

Pupils who have bullied will be helped by:

- discussing what happened
- discovering why the pupil became involved
- establishing the wrong doing and need to change
- informing parents or guardians to help change the attitude of the pupil

The following disciplinary steps can be taken:

- official warnings to cease offending which may include a Conflict Resolution Contract
- detention
- exclusion from certain areas of school premises
- minor fixed-term exclusion
- major fixed-term exclusion
- permanent exclusion

Within the curriculum the school will raise the awareness of the nature of bullying through inclusion in Health studies, homeroom classes, assemblies and specialist teaching areas, as appropriate, in an attempt to eradicate such behaviour.

Monitoring, evaluation and review

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

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