



# WOODLANDS International College

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## Woodlands International College JUNIOR COLLEGE ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

### **WOODLANDS INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE STRONGLY OPPOSES BULLYING. CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO:**

- Be loved and protected from harm, and the responsibility to show others love and respect.
- Be listened to and taken seriously, and the responsibility to listen to and be supportive of others.
- Be proud of our differences, heritage and beliefs, and the responsibility to respect the differences, origins, and beliefs of others.
- Be happy participating in all activities whether cultural, academic, or sporting, and the responsibility to respect the different interests of others.

### **WOODLANDS INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE AIMS TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT WHERE:**

- Individual differences are appreciated, understood, and accepted.
- Individuals empathise with each other and offer one another support.
- Bullying is reported to the staff and the necessary steps are taken by the staff to eliminate such behaviour.

### **BULLYING IS AN UNACCEPTABLE FORM OF SOCIAL INTERACTION, WHICH PHYSICALLY AND/OR EMOTIONALLY DAMAGES ANOTHER PERSON. FORMS OF BULLYING INCLUDE:**

- **PHYSICAL** – kicking, hitting, punching, pushing, slapping, bumping, tripping, damaging property or taking the possessions of others (stealing), forcing others to give you things or do things they do not wish to do.
- **VERBAL** – teasing, mocking, ridiculing, imitating, threatening, name calling, swearing, insulting friends, family, beliefs and religion, spreading rumours, 'putting down', unpleasant and/or abusive telephone calls, text messages or online abuse.
- **PSYCHOLOGICAL** – threatening or dominating a person, ostracising people from games and other activities, ignoring or avoiding people, ganging up on a person, rude gestures, sending unpleasant and/or lewd messages on social media platforms.

All of the above would refer to situations which would be on a continuous or repeated basis and not just singular or once off incidents.

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### **IF YOU ARE BULLIED YOU SHOULD:**

- Tell the person to stop and that such behaviour is unacceptable.
- Walk away and join another group of people if possible.
- Report it to a teacher.
- Place a written account of the incident in an envelope and address it to a teacher or the Principal. (Indicate in the letter if you wish to remain anonymous).

### **IF YOU WITNESS SOMEONE BEING BULLIED YOU SHOULD:**

- Take it seriously.
- Tell the person to stop and that such behaviour is unacceptable.
- Walk away and join another group of people if possible, while assisting and removing the person being bullied.
- Report it to a teacher.
- Place a written account of the incident in an envelope and address it to a teacher or the Principal. (Indicate if you would like to remain anonymous).

### **STEPS TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE CASE OF AN INCIDENT OF BULLYING:**

- Cases of bullying will be dealt with initially by the class teacher and be reported to the HOD and then the Principal / Deputy Principal.
- Continued bullying issues will be dealt with by the Principal / Deputy Principal.
- Incidents will be investigated in the strictest confidence.
- All persons involved will be interviewed separately to gain an unbiased opinion, by a hearing from both parties.
- Parents of both parties will be contacted and informed of the incident.
- The following initial disciplinary measures could be taken:
  - The withdrawal of privileges, including the participation in extra-mural activities or any form of socialization with peers, as well as suspension from the classroom.
  - Counselling sessions may be suggested.
  - A disciplinary hearing will be held with a view to full suspension from the College.
- Any disciplinary action taken is at the discretion of the principal and will be implemented on a case by case basis.

Policy History: Revised November 2018  
Updated October 2020  
Update February by R Gatsios 2023

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