



BULLYING POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

Ashton International College Benoni is a 'hurt-free' school and expects all members of the school to show respect and consideration for others. Bullying in any form will not be tolerated.

2. FORMS OF BULLYING

Bullying is a deliberate, conscious desire to hurt, threaten, frighten and intimidate someone. It violates a student's rights to human dignity, freedom, privacy and security, and is a barrier preventing a child from reaching his/her full potential. Forms of bullying include:

2.1. Physical

- Pushing, tripping, hitting, punching, kicking etc.
- Forcing others to do things they do not want to do
- Taking or damaging someone's property
- Pranks

2.2. Verbal (including via electronic media and/or social networking)

- Teasing, mocking, taunting
- Abusive comments
- Threats
- Embarrassing or threatening gestures
- Insults
- Name calling
- Writing nasty letters about or to someone

2.3. Psychological (including via electronic media and/or social networking)

- Spreading rumours
- Deliberate exclusion from activities
- Influencing or telling others to dislike someone
- Making fun of someone
- Trying to dominate or intimidate someone

3. STUDENTS' RIGHTS

Every child has the right to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation. (Section 28 (1)(d) of the Bill of Rights). Everyone has the right to human dignity (Section 10 of the Bill of Rights). Everyone has the right to report any case or form of bullying, as listed above. We acknowledge that bullying is an unfortunate reality and a common feature of everyday life in schools, however, Ashton is committed to dealing with each reported case and to enforcing the consequences of bullying.

4. CONSEQUENCES OF BULLYING AT ASHTON COLLEGE


The Ashton International College Code of Conduct (of which each student has a copy), states the following:

'A student will be guilty of serious misconduct if he/she intentionally and without excuse: bullies, intimidates, victimizes or in any way whatsoever threatens the physical and/or mental wellbeing of any person.'

In accordance with the above, the procedure is as follows:

- First offence: Official letter of warning on student's file, with exclusion from activities.
- Second offence: Hearing with possible suspension of up to five days, relative to the severity of the incident.
- Third offence: Hearing, leading to possible expulsion.

Note: the above procedure is a guideline; it is Management's decision to determine the severity of each case and if deemed necessary, to take appropriate action, not necessarily in accordance with the above.



 L. FELIX (Mrs)
 Executive Principal