



1. GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

In keeping with the school's ethos and Code of Conduct, Pretium Private School is committed to creating a climate in which every pupil can develop academically, socially and emotionally. In order for this to happen, the pupils need to feel safe. Attempting to remove all aspects of bullying is an integral part of our work to create a safe and secure milieu that is conducive to the desired development of each individual.

The underpinning philosophy behind the Anti-bullying is that it is restorative and informed by compassion, respect and understanding.

Each and every pupil has rights, namely: to feel safe, to learn and grow, to be respected, to be valued, and to be different.

These rights and responsibilities should be embraced by staff, parents and pupils alike. Each person in Pretium Private School has the collective responsibility to create a safe, respectful school environment, and to help prevent bullying behaviour.

2. DEFINITION OF BULLYING

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behaviour that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behaviour is repeated. Or has the potential to be repeated over time, with a continued attempt to exert dominance over another person in a forceful and/or demeaning manner.

Physical bullying: Any form of physical behaviour which intentionally harms others or their property. This includes stealing, hiding, throwing or intentionally damaging another person's possessions. As well as extortion eg. Forcing others to hand over their possessions such as lunch money.

Verbal bullying: Includes name calling, repeated teasing insulting and discriminatory remarks, threats, sexual harassment and any other form of verbal abuse designed to harm or belittle another person.

Psychological and social bullying: Includes spreading rumours, non-verbal intimidation (such as glaring or laughing at other with the intention to threaten or shame), excluding someone from a group and preventing other from befriending them, or applying pressure to peer/s to conform.

Indirect bullying: Influencing, encouraging or organising others to be involved in any type of bullying.

Cyber- bullying: The use of technology as a means of bullying others, through cellphones, computers, photographs, videos, email, internet, instant/voice messaging, websites, chatrooms, Whatsapp, Facebook and all other platforms.

Many of these behaviours occur frequently, and do not always constitute bullying. One or more of the following must be present in order to ascertain that bullying has taken place:

- An initial desire to hurt
- The desire is carried out
- The action is harmful / detrimental to mental or physical well-being of the child
- There is no justification for the action
- The action is persistent and is intended to cause harm. Fear or distress.

3. PROCEDURES TO DEAL WITH BULLYING

Bullying hurts and excludes people and will not be tolerated.

The school will endeavour to teach children to:

- Use assertive behaviour if bullying is directed towards themselves or others.
- Stop bullying from occurring/ continuing by standing up for oneself or for the person being targeted.
- Address the bullying behaviour rather than the person who is bullying and to tell the person on the spot that the behaviour is wrong.
- Refuse to participate, even passively, in behaviour. To not laugh or accept comments that make fun.
- Report any incidents of bullying behaviour to someone who is trusted (friend, mediator, teacher, parents, counsellor, principal) and to ask for help.

If a person is bullied, she/he should be empowered to:

- Stand up confidently to the bully and say "Stop it, I don't like it!"
- If this is not effective, they must report it to someone they trust and ask for help.

If a person knows of someone who is being bullied, he/she should:

- Report the incident to the mediators, teachers or Head of Mediation.
- Once the incident has been reported, the following procedures should be followed:
Procedures may differ according to sections of the school, and whether the incident occurred within class periods or for example, at break. While class teachers are responsible for minor incidents within the classroom, more serious or repeated incidents should be reported to the Head of Mediation and the Principal.

- If the incident occurs in break, teachers on duty will report the incident to the Head of Mediation. The incident is recorded in the Incident Report book.
- If the incident has not been satisfactorily resolved by the teacher, whether within or outside the school, the teacher will refer the incident to the Head of Mediation/Principal. Follow-up meeting/s will be held to address the issue.
- Ongoing or serious incidents will be reported to parents and will be addressed by the principal.
- Intervention strategies will be decided upon. These could involve individuals, a group, a grade or whole school, depending on circumstances.
- If bullying behaviour continues, the Code of Conduct Policy will be followed. Children need to be aware that bullying behaviour is viewed as an act of serious misconduct and can result in a disciplinary hearing and suspension.

Furthermore, a full investigation of any allegation of bullying is required. In all cases the consequences should be determined by factors such as the severity of the bullying, the age of the pupil and prior history.

Parents or caregivers are required to work with school authorities in cases of bullying and to follow school procedures in responding to bullying behaviour. This includes reporting suspected bullying to school authorities.

4. PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

The following measures may be employed to prevent the occurrence of bullying:

- Educating learners about the impact and the consequences thereof (for both perpetrators and victim/s)
- Encouraging a “speaking out” environment
- Assertiveness programme
- Peer mediation programme
- Build a strong capacity for empathy and kindness towards others
- Adequate supervision by staff during break times
- Social skills and life skills training and/or programmes
- Counselling
- Designated staff members given specific portfolio of managing mediation.

5. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

it is important for Pretium Private School to dress the issue of the “code of silence” – students must feel empowered to disclose issues of bullying. To end this Pretium Private School aims to establish a community in which everyone feels valued and safe, where individual differences are appreciated, understood and accepted. Every student has a right to enjoy their time at school.

Pretium does not tolerate bullying or harassment. Respect for others is expected. A high standard of behaviour is always required to provide a safe and caring environment for everyone.

At Pretium Private School everyone has rights and responsibilities:

RIGHTS	RESPONSABILITIES
To be different	To show compassion and understanding
To feel safe	To respect yourself
To learn and grow	To respect others
To be respected	To use common sense
To be valued	To support others

If a student is being bullied – he/she should:

1. Tell the bully to stop by stating clearly that the behaviour is unwelcome.
2. Walk away and stay away from the bully.
3. Seek help – tell someone they trust or report it to a staff member.

Students should understand that bullying is viewed as a very serious offence and the sanction according to the Student Disciplinary Procedure and Code is suspension followed by a hearing which could result in expulsion.

