



Newton International Academy, Barwa City
Anti Bullying Policy



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Rationale

Bullying is an unacceptable form of behaviour in Newton International Academy. It is destructive in that it interferes with the education of students and also affects parents and staff. As a school community we must ensure that school is a safe and secure environment for **every** individual student.

Purpose

- To define bullying.
- To raise awareness of the issue within the school community and with parents.
- To put in place a process that will enable us to deal with bullying effectively.
- To monitor the extent of bullying in school.

A definition of bullying

Bullying is when someone causes hurt through **words** or **actions**. **Students in Newton International define bullying as:**

- **Being cruel** by: ganging up on someone, calling names, teasing, giving dirty looks, using email or texting to send hurtful messages, placing harmful messages on the internet or other public sites.
- **Threatening** someone by: pushing, hitting, actions that result in tears, throwing objects, making someone feel uncomfortable.
- **Making life a misery** by: wanting to control someone, showing no respect, stealing, and intimidation. Bullying can be carried out by one student or a group of students. It can happen anywhere in the school including the playground, canteen, corridors, classrooms, toilets and also on school buses. Bullying is an attack on an individual and a denial of a person's human rights. Bullying in another language is still bullying. Children who harass others in languages other than English will be treated the same.

Raising awareness of bullying within Newton International Academy and community

Bullying is often a secret activity therefore:

- Twice a year students will be surveyed by the student council to indicate the extent of bullying both in school and on the buses. This will be done in November and May.
- The student definition of bullying will be reviewed annually and displayed around the school.
- Each student/parent will be given a copy of the school policy.
- All teaching and support staff will be familiar with the policy
- P4C lessons/early morning discussions/Citizenship lessons, Character Education Lessons and school assemblies will promote Newton International Academy as a place where bullying is not accepted.

Definition of Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying can be defined as **"the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behaviour by an individual or group that is intended to harm others"** (Belsey, <http://www.cyberbullying.org>). It is an aggressive, intentional act carried out repeatedly over time, often against a victim who cannot easily defend himself/ herself.

- Cyberbullying includes sending or posting harmful, abusive messages or upsetting text, images or other messages, using the internet, mobile phones or other digital communication.
- It can take many forms, but can go even further than face to face bullying by invading home and personal space and can target one or more people.
- It can take place across age groups and target pupils, staff and others.
- It can include threats and intimidation, harassment, defamation, exclusion or peer rejection, impersonation and unauthorised publication of private information or images with the intent to cause harm or humiliation.
- Creating websites that intend to harm, make fun of someone or spread malicious rumours.
- Pressuring an individual to do something they do not want to do, such as sending inappropriate images or videos.
- Illegally hacking into an individual's email, electronic device or online profile to extract personal information or to send offensive and hurtful content whilst posing as that person.

Special Concerns

cyberbullying has unique concerns in that it can be:

- Persistent – Digital devices offer an ability to immediately and continuously communicate 24 hours a day, so it can be difficult for children experiencing cyberbullying to find relief.
- Permanent – Most information communicated electronically is permanent and public, if not reported and removed. A negative online reputation, including for those who bully, can impact university admissions, employment, and other areas of life.
- Hard to Notice – Because teachers and parents may not overhear or see cyberbullying taking place, it is harder to Recognise.
- Breaking the Cybercrime Law – Students need to be aware that any incidences of cyberbullying which contravene the Cyber Laws may be subject immediately to Permanent Exclusion under the guidelines of the behaviour policy.

There are many different methods by which cyberbullying takes place. The following list is not exhaustive; while the development of information and communications technology is so rapid, new styles of cyberbullying are emerging constantly. Moreover, young people are particularly adept at adapting to new technology.

The most common places where cyberbullying occurs are:

- Social Media, such as Facebook, Whatsapp, Discord, TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter
- Gaming platforms
- SMS (Short Message Service) also known as Text Message sent through devices

- Instant Message (via devices, email provider services, apps, and social media messaging features)
- Email

The schools Response to cyberbullying

The school takes all incidents of alleged cyberbullying very seriously, recognising that the effects on the victim can be devastating. All reported incidents will be investigated following the school procedures. The following preventative measures taken by the school:

- Throughout the school students are educated in relation to the benefits and dangers of digital technologies as detailed in ***Cyberbullying-preventative measures***.
- Where incidents of cyberbullying have taken place outside of the school and are reported and not under the jurisdiction, the School will inform the parents of the pupils involved as appropriate.
- The School will take disciplinary action in line with the school Behaviour and Sanction policy against any individuals involved in cyberbullying if some of the cyberbullying has taken place in school.
- It is ultimately the parents responsibility to monitor their child's online activity at home.

Cyberbullying - Preventative Measures

- E-safety courses are built into the NIA Computing and ICT curriculum along with the Assemblies.
- The School expects all pupils to adhere to its E-Safety Policy and the signed acceptable users agreement.
- All members of the NIA community sign an acceptable user agreement.
- Certain sites are blocked by our filtering system and our IT Department monitors pupils' use.
- The school may impose disciplinary sanctions for the misuse, or attempted misuse, of the internet.
- NIA Issues all pupils in years 1-13 with their own personal school email address.
- NIA offers guidance on the safe use of social networking sites and cyberbullying in PSHE programme of studies and circle time during lessons, which covers blocking, removing contacts from "friend" lists and sharing personal data.
- Regular E-safety assemblies and Whole school E-Safety days.
- Parental E-safety webinars and workshops.
- Offer guidance on keeping names, addresses, passwords, mobile phone numbers and other personal details safe

Process

To prevent bullying in Newton International Academy

- Everyone within the school community must know what bullying is and the consequences of bullying someone.
- All staff will deal with complaints seriously - no matter how trivial they may seem.
- Students will be given the opportunity to take part in programmes such as self-esteem etc.
- Active supervision throughout the school day particularly at lunchtime.

When a Student Reports Bullying in Newton International Academy, all staff should:

- Deal with it immediately and inform Senior Management.
- Focus on the feelings of the victim.
- Collect information about the incident from both parties and witnesses if necessary.
- With the consent of both parties a meeting should be arranged to try and resolve the problem.
- Both sets of parents are informed and invited to come to the school if necessary.
- Students will be monitored on a regular basis and given the opportunity to express how they are feeling.

Bullying a student at Newton International Academy will result in the following:

- Being put on formal report and appearing in front of the School Disciplinary Committee.
- Suspended for **repeatedly** causing hurt through words or actions.
- Suspended for any form of physical violence.
- More than 3 serious complaints will lead to expulsion.
- Student Counsellor intervention