

School Based Decision Making Policy Format

School: duPont Manual High School
Policy: Antibullying

Rationale: Everyone at Manual High School is committed to making our school a safe and caring place for all students. For that reason we prohibit harassment against students in school, including harassment based on real or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and expression) and sex, and to prohibit discrimination based on these same characteristics. We will treat each other with respect, and we will refuse to tolerate bullying in any form. It is our belief that "Bullying is participation in any intentional behavior that causes physical, emotional or social damage through the abuse of power." This can be done either through physical size, social status, intelligence, or other factors that make the bully powerful.

Definition of Bullying: Bullying is an act of aggression, causing embarrassment, pain or discomfort to someone. It can take a number of forms; physical, verbal, making gestures, extortion and exclusion. It is an abuse of power. It can be planned and organized, or it may be unintentional. It may be perpetrated by individuals or by groups of pupils.

Bullying/Cyberbullying is defined as any unwanted verbal, physical, or social behavior among students that involves a real or perceived power imbalance and is repeated or has the potential to be repeated:

- That occurs on school premises, on school-sponsored transportation, or at a school-sponsored event; or
- That disrupts the education process
These provisions shall not be interpreted to prohibit civil exchange of opinions or debate protected under the state or federal constitutions where the opinion expressed does not otherwise materially or substantially disrupt the educational process or intrude upon the rights of others.
- Forms of Bullying may include physical violence, interfering with another pupil's property, using offensive names when addressing another pupil, teasing or spreading rumors about another pupil or his/her family, belittling another pupil's abilities and achievements, writing offensive notes or graffiti about another pupil, ridiculing another pupil's appearance, way of speaking or personal mannerisms, and misusing technology to hurt or humiliate another person.

We expect our pupils to:

- Refrain from becoming involved in any kind of bullying
- Intervene to protect a pupil being bullied unless it is not safe to do so
- Report to a member of the staff any witnessed or suspected bullying

Anyone who becomes a target of bullies should not suffer in silence, but have the courage to speak out, to put an end to their own suffering and that of other potential targets.

We ask our parents to support their children and the school by watching for signs of distress or unusual behavior in their children, advising their children to report any bullying to any staff member, advising their children not to retaliate violently to any forms of bullying, being sympathetic and supportive towards their children, keep a written record of any reported instances of bullying, even if their children are not involved, and co-operating with the school, if their children are accused of bullying to try to ascertain the truth.

Everyone should work together to combat and eradicate bullying.

Date of First Read: _____ November 2, 2016 _____

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Date of Second Read: _____ December 7, 2016 _____

Date Adopted: _____ December 7, 2016 _____

Signature: _____

(SBDM Council Chairperson)