



# Bishop Hendricken High School

*Catholic Values Fostering A Tradition Of Excellence*

## **BULLYING/ABUSE POLICY**

**Bullying** means the use by one or more students of a written, verbal, or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof directed at a student that:

- Causes physical or emotional harm to the student or damage to the student's property;
- Places the student in reasonable fear of harm to himself or of damage to his property;
- Creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or abusive educational environment for the student;
- Infringes on the rights of the student to participate in school activities; or
- Materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

The expression, physical act or gesture may include, but is not limited to, an incident or incidents that may be reasonably perceived as being motivated by characteristics such as: race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, mental, physical, or sensory disability, intellectual ability or by any other distinguishing characteristic.

Bullying most often occurs as repeated behavior and often is not a single incident between the bullying/cyberbullying offender(s) and the bullying victim(s).

**Cyberbullying** means bullying using technology or any electronic communication, which shall include, but not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, texting or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, Internet communications, instant messages or facsimile communications.

Forms of cyberbullying may include but are not limited to:

- The creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person;
- The knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages; or
- The distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of materials on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the creation, impersonation, or distribution results in any of the conditions enumerated in clauses (a) to (e) of the definition of bullying.

At Bishop Hendricken High School, respect for each individual human being is religiously grounded in the truth that each of us has been created in the image of God. Bullying in any form is a direct offense against human dignity and the community we cultivate at Bishop Hendricken.

Abuse, harassment, and/or bullying by anyone and of any kind in our school community is forbidden, and anyone who engages in bullying of any kind is subject to, but not limited to, the disciplinary actions outlined below. Excuses such as "I was just kidding" are not acceptable. In addition, threats of violence and acts of violence will be reported to the police where appropriate. Any abuse and/or harassment of



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any type directed toward anyone by a Bishop Hendricken High School student either on or off campus is also subject to school sanctions.

### **PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING AN INCIDENT OF BULLYING BEHAVIOR**

All members of the Bishop Hendricken High School community -- students, parents, and school professionals (faculty and staff) -- are strongly urged to report incidents of bullying. Reports may be made anonymously via the form, here. This reporting form is anonymous unless the reporter would like to provide their contact information. If contact information is provided, it will be kept confidential. While reported bullying incidents can be made anonymously, no disciplinary action shall be taken against a student solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

The parent(s)/guardian(s) of the victim of bullying and the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the alleged perpetrator will be notified within 24 hours of receiving the bullying incident report form should the victim or alleged perpetrator be provided in the report.

Based on the information provided on the reporting form, the principal will be notified of and involved in the investigation of any reported incident of bullying. While investigating reported incidents of bullying, the investigation may include, but is not limited to, interviewing the victim, the alleged perpetrator, and any witnesses separately. Parents/guardians of all students involved will be informed.

The range of disciplinary actions that may be taken against a perpetrator for bullying, cyberbullying or retaliation shall include, but not be limited to:

- Admonitions and warnings
- Parental/ Guardian notification and meetings
- Detention
- In-school suspension
- Loss of school-provided transportation or loss of student parking pass
- Loss of the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities
- Loss of the opportunity to participate in school social activities
- Loss of the opportunity to participate in graduation exercises or middle school promotional activities
- Police contact
- School suspension: No student shall be suspended from school unless it is deemed to be a necessary consequence of the violation of this Policy.
- Expulsion or requested parent withdrawal



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If any degree of bullying is identified, on-going support and counseling will be given as needed to both the victim and the perpetrator.

This policy is fully pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-21-34. **To view the Rhode Island statewide bullying policy (R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-21-34), [click here](#).**