



Russian International School

2023 - 2024 academic year

School Anti-Bullying Policy

“Anti-Bullying” School Vision:

All members of the School Community have the right to learn and teach in a supportive, inclusive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied.

All members of the School Community are responsible to take an affirmative action and create a secure learning environment where students can feel confident to express themselves.

The School promotes an environment in which students are not afraid to report bullying or an incident of bullying.

Every individual at School has the responsibility to report an incident of bullying whether it happens to themselves or to another person.

Everybody at School has the right:

- to be valued and respected
- to feel safe and secured

All School members are responsible to:

- to respect each other
- to be supportive towards others

School philosophy for actions can be summarised as: Firm, Fair, Consistent.

1. “Bullying” Definition:

Bullying is the unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying can be directly addressed as “face-to-face” or indirectly via the third person, or via social media – Cyberbullying.

Bullying is any behaviour which hurts, injures, threatens or frightens:

- Physical violence; punching, hitting and pushing
- Mocking at somebody
- Offensive, racist name calling or using any obviously hurtful names
- Sexist remarks
- Gossiping and spreading rumors
- Exclusion or deliberately ignoring someone
- Insulting someone
- Threatening or intimidating behaviour
- Taking and damaging property
- Offensive telephone calls, emails and text messages to others

2. “Cyberbullying” Definition:

Cyberbullying:

- cyberbullying that takes place over digital devices (cell phones, computers and tablets);
- cyberbullying can occur through SMS, Text and apps, or online in social media, or gaming (where people can view, participate in or share content);
- cyberbullying includes sending, posting or sharing negative, harmful, false or mean content about someone else;
- cyberbullying can include sharing personal or private information about someone else causing embarrassment or humiliation;
- cyberbullying can include harassment, impersonation, unauthorized publication of private images, manipulation or peer rejection.

3. “Cyberbullying” Impact:

- 1) **Persistent** – digital devices offer a continuous communication 24 hours a day. It can be difficult for children experiencing cyberbullying to find relief.
- 2) **Permanent** – information communicated electronically can become public if not reported and removed. A negative online reputation can impact any areas of life.
- 3) It is **harder to recognize** cyberbullying.
- 4) Cyberbullying can be an act of **breaking the Cybercrime Law**.

Children who are bullied can experience negative physical, psychological or mental issues. *Bullying can affect everyone—those who are bullied, those who bully, and those who witness bullying. It is important to talk to children to determine whether bullying—or something else—is a concern.*

4. Cyberbullying can occur via:

- Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)
- SMS/Text Message
- Instant Message (via devices, emails, apps)

5. ACTIONS FOR THOSE BEING BULLIED:

The School implements Cyber-Safety, Anti-Bullying and Wellbeing Campaigns.

Who can you turn to if you are bullied?

- Your parents
- Your close friends
- Your Class Teacher or any Teacher with whom you feel a relationship of trust
- School Psychologist
- Any member of the Wellbeing Team or Senior Leadership Team
- Health and Safety Officer or the School Nurse

What can you do if you are bullied?

- Tell the bully to stop. Make it clear that the behaviour is unwelcome and hurtful.
- Talk to someone you trust.
- Report it. The School does not tolerate bullying.

What should you do if you know someone else is being bullied?

- Report it at an early stage so that the problem is dealt with before it gets out of hand.

6. Anti-Bullying Code of Conduct:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Respect yourself and others.- Do not follow friends when you disagree with what they are doing.- Learn to be tolerant.- Be aware of the School Anti-Bullying Policy. |
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Russian International School expects students to behave themselves as per their levels of development, maturity, and demonstrated capabilities with respect towards rights and welfare of other students, school staff, volunteers, parents and community members.

Russian International School believes that a comprehensive curriculum must address such matters and help students understand the required traits for global citizenship.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At School we expect a high standard of behaviour at all times.• We aim to provide a safe and caring environment for everybody.• We have a policy for detecting, preventing and dealing with bullying.• We have a Wellbeing/Psychological care system that provides support to Students. |
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7. Parents and Community Members Responsibility:

Russian International School believes that parents have a responsibility to educate their children as to what behaviour is acceptable and/or expected in line with the surrounding environment.

<p>Russian International School believes that families play an integrated part in being responsible for everyone's welfare and appropriate behaviour in the community.</p>

How can parents help?

- Show a real interest in your child's social life.
- Encourage your child to be tolerant and broad minded towards others.
- Build up your child's self-esteem.
- Discuss the School Anti-Bullying Policy with your child and suggest positive strategies if his/her rights are abused.
- Confront the possibility that your child may be a bully, if the School contacts you. Work constructively with the school to find a solution to the problem.
- If your child is being bullied, please report it; the School can then take actions.

8. SCHOOL ACTIONS TO DEAL WITH INCIDENTS OF BULLYING:

- 1) Warning - if a Student is beginning to behave in a manner which be interpreted as bullying.
- 2) After due investigations, it will be explained to the bully why his/her behaviour is unacceptable. Positive strategies will be pursued to raise his self-esteem as well as to protect the victim.
- 3) The Wellbeing/Psychological support is provided by the School.
- 4) The bully's parents will be informed by letter.
- 5) If the bullying continues, arrangements will be made to minimize contact between Bully and Victim. The bully's parents will be called into school to discuss the situation
- 6) Temporary Suspension – it depends on the severity of the case along with prior history of such behaviour.
- 7) Authorities Inclusion - if the bully consistently endangers the welfare of the School community.

Sanctions for bullying may be necessary and imposed in cases of severe and persistent bullying.

9. Assessment and Record Keeping

Records relating to individual cases, for both bully and victim, are kept confidentially. Record keeping allows opportunities to analyze incident reports, which can be of particular value in identifying patterns of victim and/or bullying behaviour.