

AIS

ANTI- BULLYING POLICY

S.Y. 2024-2025

Vision:

An outstanding school cultivating dynamic students who are culturally aware and collaborative within a multicultural society.

I. Definition:

Bullying is defined as purposeful actions by one or several children with the intent of causing physical, verbal or emotional harm to another child. It can also include behaviors such as ignored. An acronym or quick method for defining bullying is R.I.P

R- repeated	I-imbalance of power	P-purposeful
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Examples of bullying behaviors:

- Use of abusive, insulting, offensive language, aggressive yelling or shouting (verbal/emotional)
- Unwarranted physical contact or threatening gestures (physical)
- Making repeated negative comments about a person's appearance, lifestyle, family, or culture (verbal/emotional)
- Regularly inappropriately teasing or making someone the brunt of pranks or practical jokes
- Circulating inappropriate or embarrassing photos or videos via email or social media (cyber)
- Harassment or threatening behavior
- Excluding, being unfriendly and ignoring peers

II. Rational of the Policy

The American International School is rich in many nationalities, cultures and backgrounds. We are committed to creating and maintaining a learning environment that conducive to learning. Students need to feel safe socially and emotionally to ensure an optimum learning experience. Students who are bullied can experience negative physical, school and mental health issues. Students who are bullied are more likely to experience:

- Depression and anxiety, increased feelings of sadness and loneliness, changes in sleep and eating patterns and loss of interest in activities they used to enjoy. These issues may persist into adulthood.
- Health Complaints: Decreased academic achievement- GPA and standardized test scores - and school participation. They are more likely to miss, skip or drop out of school.

The goal of the anti-bullying policy is for students, staff members and families to understand what bullying is and that is unacceptable at AIS. Additionally, we want all stakeholders to adopt a mindset of zero tolerance for bullying behavior.

III. Signs of Bullying

- Unexplainable injuries
- Lost or destroyed clothing, books, electronics or jewelry.
- Frequent headaches or stomach aches, feeling sick or faking illness.
- Changes in eating habits, like suddenly skipping meals or binge eating. Students may come home from school hungry because they did not eat lunch.
- Difficulty sleeping or frequent nightmares
- Declining grades, loss of interest in schoolwork, or not wanting to go to school
- Sudden loss of friends or avoidance of social situations
- Feelings of helplessness or decreased self-esteem.

IV. Actions

All reported incidents of bullying will be investigated by the supervisor or vice-principal. Both the parents of the accused and victim will be contacted about the allegation and pending investigation. At the end of the investigation, a conference will be held with the accused child's parent(s), a consequence may be issued ranging from a written apology to a school suspension, based on the severity of the incident

In serious cases of bullying, additional actions will be implemented such as counselling, an alternative school schedule, temporary or permanent exclusion as per KHDA guidelines.

Each incident of bullying will be documented and maintained by the social vice-principal. A follow-up meeting will be held with the accused and the victim to determine that the behavior has been extinguished.

V. Prevention

The American International School uses a variety of approaches to support children in understanding and prevention of bullying through; school assemblies, Anti-bullying Week, Moral Education and character education instruction. Students participate in surveys about their school experience.

Staff members receive professional development on bullying awareness as well as strategies for creating classroom communities.

VI. Roles and Responsibilities

Students:

- Report any incident of bullying to an adult within the school, even if they have witnessed it.
- Support the Anti-Bullying policy in AIS
- Participate in Anti-bullying events

Parents:

- Contact the School supervisor or Section head if there is a concern about your child being bullied.
- Support the Anti-bullying policy by speaking to your child at home.

Teachers and Support Staff:

- Report all incidents of bullying immediately to the supervisor or vice principal,
- Create classrooms that promote a community among peers
- Document incidents of misbehavior.
- Be aware of the Anti-bullying policy
- Always maintain supervision of students, especially during break.

This policy has been communicated with staff members of the American International School for Implementation.

School Leadership Team Members

_____	Date: _____	Role: _____
_____	Date: _____	Role: _____
_____	Date: _____	Role: _____
_____	Date: _____	Role: _____

CEO/Director: _____ Date: _____