

ALDENHAM SCHOOL CODE ON BULLYING

1. At Aldenham School we recognise that 'bullying' means more than physical assault; it also includes aggressive behaviour, sexual bullying, aggressive language and the use of threats; deliberate jostling and shoving; teasing and taunting; name-calling, homophobic teasing; and other behaviour that is meant to intimidate someone else.
2. We also recognise that bullying is not simply a matter of what the bully intends, but also of the effect it has on the victim. It is not good enough to argue that "I didn't think she/he'd take it like that" or "It was only a joke" or sing expressions such as "so Gay" as an insult.
3. We also recognise that bullying of some form takes place in all schools, including our own, but at Aldenham we are determined to tackle the problem of bullying and take seriously our commitment to sanction anyone found to be involved in bullying others.
4. Tutors in particular should discuss the issue of bullying with their tutor groups from time to time; and senior boys and girls within tutor groups should report any suspicions they pick up. The Deputy Head would wish to know of all cases of bullying, of whatever kind.
5. Any reports to staff of bullying must be followed up, and with care. Staff receiving such a report should immediately establish the facts: what sort of bullying is alleged? When did it take place? Where? Who is involved? What happened? Were there witnesses? Pupils concerned may be asked to write their individual accounts of the facts.
6. Tutors or Housemasters/mistress should remind pupils each term that they all have a responsibility to create a community in which they all feel free to live happily and to express themselves, without fear of being bullied.
7. Any pupil who becomes aware of bullying, or suspects that it is happening, has a duty to speak to someone in authority. To withhold such information is to aid and abet bullying, and may be treated as such.
8. It should also be understood that bullying can be the effect of the persistent teasing of a large number of people, each of whom might be appalled to think of himself as a bully, but who can easily become one of many 'bullies' by careless, insensitive comments.
9. Everyone in the School should work together to create an atmosphere in which bullying is seen as weak and despicable, and in which any pupil who suffers from such behaviour can feel safe in reporting it, without feelings of guilt or inadequacy. Housemasters/mistress should remind pupils that by reporting bullying, they are standing up for the values of community that the School and the House hold most dear.
10. Countering bullying is part of the formal Lifeskills Programme. Housemasters should encourage tutors to use age appropriate materials in delivering this through tutorials and direct pupils to the many excellent websites on the Internet.