

Bullying Awareness and Prevention

MANUAL



Agapé Jr Academy

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Purpose

The purpose of bullying awareness is to prevent students here at Agapé Jr. Academy from engaging in aggressive behavior that causes someone else anxiety and hurt. We know that bullying could occur between ages 5-18. We are also aware that students may begin exhibiting bullying behavior as early as preschool, kindergarten, and through high school, covering the full spectrum from Kindergarten, elementary, middle, and High School. If left unchecked, the behaviors may escalate and increase as students grow older through the tertiary years. We are here to curb and stop it, stump it out, and permanently discourage and wipe it out. AJA is a no free bullying school. Bullying is not tolerated in any form, be it, direct or indirect.

Bullying happens because there is a perceived imbalance of power, there is a prior aggressiveness, and there is an assurance it may happen repeatedly if not curtailed. Bullying hurts and leaves mental and physical scars and should never be tolerated in any form.

We encourage kindness, friendliness, generosity, and gentleness, to provide a helping hand, and by showing affection. It is here where students shine at their best because being kind requires courage and strength. Being kind has its rewards for all students. It increases happiness, it improves relationships, encourages academic learning, and boosts overall mental health. This virtue is fully recognized and attributes to ethical qualities, a pleasant personality, and above all considerations for all their peers.

BULLYING POLICY



Bullying is defined as repeated acts over time attempting to create or enforce one person's power over another. Bullying is abusive behavior by one or more students where others are mistreated, especially a weak individual. Any form of harassment, intimidation, and bullying is inappropriate conduct and is strictly prohibited. There is no place for bullying at Agapé Jr. Academy. The display of such behavior may result in disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion from school. A bully is one who is habitually cruel or overbearing to another student or students. No one should tolerate being bullied and should immediately make a report to a teacher.

Georgia House Bill 250

"BIT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 2

Chapter 2.

Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the official Code of Georgia Annotated, related to elementary and secondary education, is amended by revising Code Section 20-2-751.4, relating to policies prohibiting bullying, as follows:

"20-2-751.4.

(a) As used in this code section, the term "bullying" means an act which occurs on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities, or by use of data or software that is accessed

through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system, that is:

- (1) Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; or
- (2) Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or
- (3) Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that:
 - (A) Causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section 16-5-23.1;
 - (B) Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education;
 - (C) Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
 - (D) Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school."

Students are expected to report incidents of bullying to any staff member. A report shall be forwarded to the principal/discipline committee for review and action. All complaints of bullying will be immediately investigated and evaluated with parent notification of the incident. No student will intentionally write, use paper, or the internet, (that includes but is not limited to "Facebook" or any other social network), or any other electronic transmittal, use spoken language, (that is not limited to English), wireless and held devices, (that includes cell phones) with the intent to harass, intimidate, injure, threaten, ridicule, humiliate, shame, embarrass, degrade, or debase another student.

These behaviors are forbidden on school grounds, off school grounds, and at any school-sponsored activity. Agapé Jr. Academy seeks to extend kindness to all students and all students to each other because this is humane, right and just.

By-stander bully is defined as the assistance of the bully who joins the bully by observing, reinforcing, and encouraging the bully by laughing, taunting, and jeering.

Those who seemingly play the role of by-stander bully are as guilty as the bully and will be so charged and disciplined.

Parents do not encourage your child to hit or strike out verbally, but rather inform him/her to make a formal complaint to their teacher or the principal. Parents, please observe your child's behavior, appearance, and mood, both for signs of being bullied or engaging in bullying behavior. It is also your right to make formal complaint to the school if you know that your child is being bullied.

Bullying may be characterized as follows:

Direct Bullying

- a) Verbal Insults
- b) Teasing
- c) Harassment
- d) Putdown
- e) Uttering Threats
- f) Stalking
- g) Name Calling



Indirect Bullying

- a) Gossip-Talking behind someone's back
- b) Exclusive-asking others to stay away from the targeted bullied person
- c) Spreading rumors



Psychological Bullying

- a) Rolling of the Eyes
- b) Dirty Looks
- c) Playing Pranks
- d) Emotional Abuse



Physical Bullying

- a) Shoving
- b) Pushing
- c) Hits
- d) Assaults

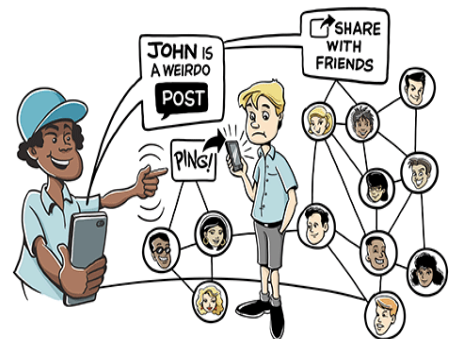


Cyber Bullying

Cyber bullying takes the form of using technology, that includes but not limited to computer and smartphones, social media such as instant messaging, text, website, Instagram, Snapchat, and other online platforms.

Cyber bullying is wrong in any form. It includes but not limited to:

- ❖ Abusive or hurtful text, email post, images, and videos.
- ❖ Nasty chatter of others
- ❖ Spreading allegations that are unfounded
- ❖ Sending insulting and threatening messages
- ❖ Sending private sexual images
- ❖ Using others' login and password to send harmful messages.



As a student at AJA you could get into serious trouble at school or on your computer at home if you threaten another student, school employee, staff, and their property.

Harassment



A behavior that annoys or upsets someone. It may include but is not limited to:

- ❖ Calling a student negative names about their race, nationality, religion, gender, or disability.
- ❖ Hitting or fighting someone because they belong to a certain group of people.
- ❖ Mocking or making fun of students because they belong to a certain group of people.
- ❖ Trying to remove their head covering or other symbols of their religion, or culture.
- ❖ Telling a student they cannot sit or be in the same area with you just because they belong to a certain group of people.
- ❖ Making negative statements and rumors in class, school, or online about particular groups of people, religion, or race.

Discrimination



Discrimination is the unfair treatment aimed at one particular person or group of people. The treatment is usually due to the student's sex, nationality, and/or ethnicity. At AJA we do not discriminate or encourage discriminations in any way, shape, or form because of one's characteristics. We focus on students' strength, core values, beliefs, and motivate all students to aim at succeeding to reach their full potential.

We educate our students free from intolerance and in so doing provide high quality education which promotes success in life. We agree that all kinds of discrimination are wrong and have no place in schools and the educational system. More so, it is harmful and prevents students from feeling safe and accepted.