



Title: **BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION**

Adopted: January 12, 2010

Reviewed: January 1, 2013, November 2021

Revised: March 2017

Authority: Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER E.2
O. Reg. 472/07, Suspension and Expulsion of Pupils
O. Reg. 612/00, School Councils
PPM 128: The Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct
PPM 144: Bullying Prevention and Intervention

POLICY

It is the policy of the Bloorview School Authority that bullying not be accepted on school property, at school-related activities, on school buses, or in any other circumstances.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. The Bloorview School Authority recognizes that bullying:
 - adversely affects a student's ability to learn;
 - adversely affects healthy relationships and the school climate;
 - adversely affects the school's ability to education its students.
2. *Bullying* is typically a form of repeated, persistent and aggressive behaviour that is directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem, or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance
3. Students may attain or maintain power over others in the school through real or perceived differences. Some areas of difference include but are not limited to size, strength, age, intelligence, economic status, social status, solidarity of peer group, religion, ethnicity, disability, need for special education, sexual orientation, family circumstances, gender and race.
4. Bullying is a dynamic of unhealthy interaction that can take many forms. It can be physical (e.g. hitting, pushing, tripping), verbal (e.g. name calling, mocking, or making sexist, racist, or homophobic comments), or social (e.g. excluding others from a group, spreading gossip, or rumours). It may also occur through the use of technology (e.g. spreading rumours, images, or hurtful comments through the use of e-mail, cell phones, text messaging, Internet Web site, or other technology).

5. *Cyberbullying* is the use of information and communication technologies, such as e-mail, cell phone and text messages, instant messaging, personal Web sites and on-line personal polling Web sites, to support deliberate, repeated and hostile behaviour by an individual or group, which is intended or perceived to harm others.
6. *Bullying prevention* is a whole-school approach that heightens expectations for a safe, caring and inclusive school climate. It includes a shared understanding about the nature and underlying causes of bullying and its effects on the lives of individual students and the school community.
7. *Bullying intervention* is a comprehensive and effective response to the bullying incident that takes into consideration all parties involved in the bullying incident. It should provide specific supports for the student who has been bullied, intervention for the student who was bullying, and strategies for responding to students who were directly observing the bullying incident.
8. The policies and procedures on bullying prevention and intervention should be evaluated regularly with the School climate survey acting as a component of this evaluation.

PROCEDURES

1. Policies and procedures on bullying prevention and intervention, and the definition of bullying shall be communicated to students, parents, teachers and other school staff, school councils, volunteers and school bus operators/drivers.
2. Supports shall be provided for students who have been bullied, students who have bullied others, and students who have been affected by observing bullying.