



British International School of Tunis

BRAVE • IMAGINATIVE • SELF-DISCIPLINED • TOLERANT

Anti Bullying Policy (Primary)

The British International School of Tunis



<i>Date Amended</i>	February 2021	<i>Staff Responsible</i>	SLT
<i>Date to Review</i>	September 2022	<i>Version</i>	V1



British International School of Tunis

BRAVE • IMAGINATIVE • SELF-DISCIPLINED • TOLERANT

The School Anti Bullying Policy at The British International School of Tunis is underpinned by the following areas of Children's Rights.

All children and young people have the right to be protected from physical, emotional and mental violence; a right enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children also have the right to learn, live, travel and play in a safe environment where they can thrive and achieve their full potential.

At BIST we believe that pupils should flourish and any behaviour which prevents pupils from feeling happy and secure should be dealt with immediately.

AIMS

The aim of this policy is to try to prevent and deal with any behaviour deemed as bullying. We are committed to ensuring that the school community works together to create a happy, safe, caring and stimulating environment. The implementation of this policy will create an ethos where bullying is regarded as unacceptable so that a safe and secure environment is created for everyone to learn and work in. All members of the school community have the responsibility to recognise bullying when it occurs and take appropriate action in accordance with the school policy.

WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is behaviour which is on-going and repeated. It is the conscious decision to continue to hurt someone physically, verbally or silently or to threaten or frighten someone over a short period of time. It can be direct (to a person's face) or indirect (behind their back).

Bullying someone physically

This can involve punching, kicking, hitting or pushing.

It can also include 'accidentally' banging into someone or tripping them up or spitting at them.

It may also include taking or breaking someone's possessions.

Bullying someone verbally

This can involve name-calling or threatening someone. It includes teasing, taunting, mimicking or trying to make someone look silly in front of others.

Bullying someone online

Cyberbullying is any form of bullying that is carried out through the use of electronic media devices, such as computers, laptops, smartphones, tablets or gaming consoles.



British International School of Tunis

BRAVE • IMAGINATIVE • SELF-DISCIPLINED • TOLERANT

Silent bullying

This can involve being deliberately ignored or being prevented from joining in games or activities. This can also include sending unkind notes or spreading rumours.

Homophobic Bullying

Bullying which refers to someone's gender, race or sexual orientation is unacceptable.

What could be considered to be 'not bullying'.

It is important to understand that bullying is not the odd occasion of falling out with friends, name calling, arguments or when the occasional trick or joke is played on someone. It is bullying if it is done several times on purpose .

Children sometimes fall out and say things because they are upset. When occasional problems of this kind arise, although unkind, it is an important part of children's development to learn how to deal with friendship breakdowns or a childish prank. We need to build in strategies to deal with these things and resilience. We all have to learn how to deal with these situations and develop skills to repair relationships. We therefore embed this policy in line with our behaviour policy and the Restorative Justice approach.

At BIST we teach empathy by talking to young people about their feelings. For example, a teacher could ask someone who has been bullying another child how he thinks that child whom he has bullied might feel. The teacher could also ask: "How would you feel if someone said bad things about you?"

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF BULLYING

A child may indicate, by different signs or behaviour, that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these signs and investigate further if a child:

- Is frightened of walking to or from school.
- Begins truanting.
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence.
- Feels ill in the morning.
- Begins to under-perform in school work.
- Has possessions gone 'missing'.
- Asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay the bully).
- I Am frightened to say what's wrong.

NB this is not a definitive list but suggests some of the signs and symptoms. These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be taken seriously and investigated as soon as possible.



British International School of Tunis

BRAVE • IMAGINATIVE • SELF-DISCIPLINED • TOLERANT

PREVENTING BULLYING

Strategies in school for the prevention and reduction of bullying

Whole school initiatives and proactive teaching strategies will be used throughout the school to develop a positive learning environment with the aim of reducing opportunities for bullying to occur. These include:

- Each class agreeing on their own set of class rules
- Making national anti-bullying week a high profile event each year
- Raising awareness through assemblies, work in PSHE lessons and circle time discussions
- Setting up circle of friends support network to support individuals experiencing difficulties
- Using drama and role-play activities to help children be more assertive and teach them strategies to help them deal with bullying situations
- Introducing playground improvements and initiatives, e.g. school sports leaders
- Using praise and rewards to reinforce good behaviour
- Restorative Justice Approach
- Involving parents and the wider community
- Worry boxes, etc. in the classrooms
- Classroom reflection and values books and tables

PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH AND REPORTING BULLYING

If there is a report of bullying behaviour, we will:

- Fully investigate the incident promptly to establish the facts taking the views of others who may have been witnesses.
- Meet with the perpetrator and the victim individually and then together if the bullied child is happy with this, separately if he/she is not. Make it clear that bullying behaviour is not acceptable. Ensure the victim's point of view is understood by the perpetrator and genuine remorse is demonstrated. (Restorative Justice).
- Inform both sets of parents of the events and offer an appointment if required to each to discuss the school's actions and sanctions.
- Record the incident on SIMS.
- Monitor the situation to ensure the bullying is not repeated.

Sanctions might include: (see links to behaviour policy)

- loss of some minutes with regards to Golden Time
- being excluded from after-school clubs



British International School of Tunis

BRAVE • IMAGINATIVE • SELF-DISCIPLINED • TOLERANT

To make the person doing the bullying think about their behaviour, they could:

- apologise to their victim
- Write a 'sorry' letter to the victim
- have their parents brought into school for a meeting if it becomes a regular occurrence

All staff on break duties will communicate any concerns with classroom teachers each day. Teaching staff will communicate any incidents to the Headteacher and to each other during the week.

WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU ARE BEING BULLIED?

We want everybody to feel confident to report bullying whenever and wherever it happens, and get the help they need to feel safe again. If someone is bullying you, it is important to remember that it is not your fault and there are people that can help you. Tell someone you trust, giving them as many facts as you can (Who? Where? What? Why? When? How?). All pupils know that if they are experiencing bullying they should tell their teacher in the first instance.

WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE ELSE BEING BULLIED? (THE ROLE OF THE BYSTANDER)

Ignoring bullying is cowardly and unfair to the victim. Staying silent means that the bully has won and gives them more power. There are ways you can help without putting yourself in danger, for example tell a member of staff as soon as possible or ask someone you trust about what to do.