

Kingswood Academy Bullying Policy

Updated: 10/2/25

BULLYING PREVENTION POLICY

Kingswood Academy actively seeks to provide a supportive, caring, and healthy school environment to help students learn. Bullying can cause physical and emotional harm which affects students and can interfere with the proper school environment. Bullying and intimidation are not Catholic and are strictly prohibited.

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, national origin, appearance as defined by 105 ILC 5/27-23.7 is prohibited at Kingswood Academy. Bullying is contrary to State Law and the Catholic virtues taught at Kingswood Academy.

No student shall be subjected to bullying while on school property and vehicles, at any school sponsored event, through the transmission of a school computer/network, or by any other electronic means including personal devices.

Nothing in this policy is intended to infringe upon any right to exercise expression of the free exercise of religion or religiously based views protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution or under Section 3 of Article I of the Illinois Constitution.

Definitions

Bullying includes "cyber-bullying" and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- Placing a student in reasonable fear of harm, causing substantial effort on physical or mental health, substantially academic performance, substantially interfering with the ability to participate in school learning, activities, or services of the school.

"Cyber-bullying" means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, including without limitation any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic system, photoelectronic system, or photo-optical system, including without limitation electronic mail, Internet communications, instant messages, or facsimile communications. "Cyber-bullying" includes the creation of a webpage or weblog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages if the creation or impersonation creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying in this Section. "Cyber-bullying" also includes the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons if the distribution or posting creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Any students who engage in bullying will be subject to the appropriate discipline measure. Restorative measures will be considered (such as - required counseling, skill building, or community based services). Appropriate discipline includes up to and including suspension or expulsion and referral to local law enforcement. Behavior interventions may be included as a component of the actions. This may include but is not limited to mandatory counseling.



Reporting Process

Students, parents, and school personnel are encouraged to immediately report any incident of concern to the Kingswood principal (Dominic Sepich, dsepich@kingswoodacademy.org) within 24 hours at 630-887-1411 or office@kingswoodacademy.org. Alternatively reports can be made orally to any administration and or members of the school leadership team. (Alexandra LaCasio, Assistant Principal and Laurie Debella, Curriculum Director)

Anonymous reports are accepted by calling the contact list above and indicating you wish to stay anonymous. However, formal disciplinary action cannot be taken solely on an anonymous report.

Upon receiving a report an administrator will investigate the claim. The parents of the students involved will be notified within 24 hours of a report. All effort will be made to complete the investigation within 10 school days after the date the report was received. All appropriate staff with appropriate training will be involved in the investigation. Any staff member who receives such a report is required to notify the principal as soon as possible.

Consistent with Federal and State law, parents and guardians who have students involved will be given an opportunity to meet with those who conducted the investigation to discuss findings and actions taken.

Retaliatory behavior by a student accused of bullying is prohibited. False accusations of bullying, found to be done on purpose, will result in disciplinary action.

Reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act they believe is bullying is prohibited. No person will be subject to consequences for making a good faith report. However, making a false accusation as retaliation or as a means of bullying is prohibited and will be treated as bullying.

This policy will be posted on Kingswood's website and is based on the engagement of school stakeholders.

Kingswood evaluates the outcomes and effectiveness of the policy that includes, but is not limited to, factors such as the frequency of victimization; student, staff, and family observations of safety at a school; identification of areas of a school where bullying occurs; the types of bullying utilized; and bystander intervention or participation.

This policy is consistent with the policies of the Kingswood Board of Education.