

Hawthorne School Bullying Policies and Procedures

It is the belief at Hawthorne School, that all students have the right to learn in a safe environment, free from emotional and/or physical bullying. Further, it should be understood that ALL adults and students within the Hawthorne School Community have a responsibility to ensure that physical or verbal harassment does not occur and that ALL individuals share this responsibility either as the bully, the bullied, or the witness.

Bullying is defined as: “The unprovoked, repeated and aggressive actions or threats of action by someone perceived to have more power in order to cause fear, distress or harm. Bullying can be physical, verbal, psychological or a combination of the three.” It is important for students and adults to differentiate between normal conflict and patterns of bullying.

It is the responsibility of the bully to identify and correct his or her bullying behaviors. It is the responsibility of the bullied individual or the witness to report any incidents to an adult. All reports of bullying will be investigated by the classroom teacher, school counselor and/or school administration. Parents of both the victim and the bully will be notified regarding any valid complaints and the steps being taken toward resolution.

Students or their parents may report incidents to the classroom teacher or school administration. Reports can be verbal or written and should include specific details. If a student (either the victim or witness) wishes to report an incident anonymously, “Bullying Report Forms” are available in the office and individual classrooms. Completed forms can be turned into the office, to a teacher, or to the “bullying box” next to the school counselor’s office.

Disciplinary action for bullying may include any of the following and will be determined by the teacher, assistant principal or principal depending on the severity of the offense.

- Warning
- School service
- Detention
- Exclusion from school activities
- Suspension
- Documentation in permanent school files

In order to resolve issues between students, conflict resolution procedures may be implemented, with the consent of the complaining student. In all cases, whether or not there has been formal conflict resolution, the teacher or school administration will schedule a follow up conference with the victim to ensure that the bullying has stopped and take further action if necessary.

