



# THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

## A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

London Road  
Buckingham  
MK18 1AT

Tel: 01280 812206

Fax: 01280 822525

Email: [office@buckinghamschool.org](mailto:office@buckinghamschool.org)

Website: [www.buckinghamschool.org](http://www.buckinghamschool.org)

Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes

18 March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

### New Anti-Bullying Initiative – Update

Triggered by another series of Facebook postings, I am prompted to write to you to update you on some of our actions regarding our new Anti-Bullying Initiative.

Last week, our Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator, Mrs Wallace, proudly showed me a thread on Facebook. Parents of Year 6s were talking about their child's secondary school allocation. One expressed reservations about bullying at The Buckingham School, but three different parents (of students in different year groups) stepped in, highlighting our strong anti-bullying stance here.

We are proud to say that the new system has, so far, achieved one of its major goals: *Students are reporting their concerns and growing in confidence to seek support when needed.* Even better, we have had our first instances of students reporting concerns that do not directly involve them.

We are often finding that these reported cases are simply involving friends falling out, and we are happy to help friends "make up" and move on. Many students are just grateful to have someone to talk to when they are not happy. For the few cases where bullying has been uncovered, Mrs Wallace has been able to support students and behaviour contracts have been issued.

So far, no student has needed a second sanction (parent meeting) or third (exclusion).

We are holding assemblies this week to update our students on the progress to date, when the students will be introduced to the new Head Boy and Head Girl, as well as the Student Anti-Bullying Lead.

You will recall that we have set the bar high: we have defined bullying as any social aggression: hostile, verbal or physical behaviour, which means to insult, embarrass, humiliate or make the target feel "less than". Behaviour previously allowed as "banter" has been challenged and dealt with.

A quick reminder that under our procedures the following routes are available for students to raise concerns:

- A student can report bullying in person to a member of staff or an older student.
- A student can make a written report, and place it in one of the anti-bullying boxes (outside Student Office and outside Mr Fox's office).
- A student or parent can make a report by email to [antibullying@buckinghamschool.org](mailto:antibullying@buckinghamschool.org)

Our students are fantastic as a whole. We knew it wouldn't take much to move things forward in a new direction, because they are generally so willing to support each other and be loyal to the school.

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*The Buckingham School is concerned that every student should have the opportunity to attend school activities/obtain equipment, regardless of their financial circumstances. As such, it may be possible to subsidise those students who would otherwise be unable to attend trips/purchase items. Please feel free to write in confidence to Mrs S Gallagher or Mrs K Bones at [office@buckinghamschool.org](mailto:office@buckinghamschool.org), if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.*



Please, if you have any concerns about bullying contact us, as outlined above. Even more important, if you have any concerns about how we have dealt with a case of alleged bullying, please contact me via [aallen@buckingham-school.org](mailto:aallen@buckingham-school.org) and I will ensure that either I or another senior member of staff address your concerns.

If we don't tolerate bullying, it cannot happen. I thank you so much for your support in keeping our students as safe as possible.

With best wishes,



**Mr A McGinnes**  
Headteacher

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