



# 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

7 February 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

### New Anti-Bullying Initiative

As promised, I am writing to you about a new Anti-Bullying Initiative at The Buckingham School. This letter is deliberately being kept shorter than it could easily be: I want the key messages to be clear.

We have canvassed 74 students in focus groups – students of different ages, genders, backgrounds and interests. We have canvassed staff including teaching assistants, site staff, pastoral staff and form tutors.

All that now follows is a product of what we have found. More information will be available on our website in due course.

- Mrs Wallace has been appointed Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator, with immediate effect
- We are speaking to all staff tomorrow morning, Friday, 8 February
- We are conducting assemblies with all students throughout next week, commencing Monday, 11 February.

#### The Buckingham School Definition of Bullying:

*Any social aggression: hostile, verbal or physical behaviour, which means to insult, embarrass, humiliate or make the target feel “less than”.*

To be clear, this means that so-called banter is clearly banned by our definition, amongst many other behaviours. We are a school. We are here to educate and be educated. There are no blurred lines, such behaviour is unacceptable in our learning environment.

#### Procedures for Reporting:

- 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)
- Anyone alleging that they are a victim will meet Mrs Wallace as soon as possible, and home will be contacted.
- We will contact home and report on our findings within 48 hours.

#### Sanctions:

If the victim is happy to do so, there will always be a restorative meeting between the perpetrator and victim. In every case the victim will be at the centre of our thinking, and will be kept informed of what is happening.

Cont'd...

*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.*



- **First offence of committing bullying:** restorative meeting with the victim and perpetrator will be required to sign an anti-bullying contract.
- **Second offence:** restorative meeting, with parents/carers called into school for a meeting.
- **Third offence:** exclusion.

There will be more information to follow in the coming days, weeks and months and we will be celebrating our inclusive culture regularly with the community.

With best wishes,



**Mr A McGinnes**  
Headteacher

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