

PEACE WAPITI PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 76

POLICY IGH – Anti-Bullying

The Board is committed to providing a safe, respectful school climate and the opportunity for students, employees, trustees, parents and community members to work and learn in an environment free of all forms of bullying.

PURPOSE

To support the school community to foster a positive school climate where everyone is treated with equality, dignity and respect through discouraging acts of bullying, including intimidation and harassment.

DEFINITIONS

Bullying is typically any form of demeaning behavior directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem, or reputation. If serious enough, a single act or expression can constitute bullying.

Cyber bullying is a type of bullying. It may include, but is not limited to, e-mail, cell phone texts or digital imaging, pager text messages, instant text messages, instant messaging, social networking sites, defamatory personal web sites, defamatory online personal polling web sites, blogs, chat rooms and discussion groups.

For the purpose of this policy 'school' refers to the school, on school grounds, or buses, or school-related or school-sanctioned activities.

GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES

1. The Board supports programs designed to develop responsible, caring and respectful members of a just, peaceful and democratic society.
2. Students and staff have a responsibility to respect the rights and dignity of others.
3. Staff is expected to address bullying activities to maintain a safe, respectful school climate.
4. Adults involved with the school are expected to model, reinforce and encourage socially responsible and respectful behaviors.
5. Any action that a loving and considerate parent would take is not considered bullying under this policy. Employees in schools are expected to act as a judicious parent would act; therefore, on occasion such actions as yelling at a student, touching a student, taking a student by the hand or arm to remove him/her from class, physically restraining a student when necessary to prevent the student from harming himself/herself, some other person or damaging property, are not considered bullying.
6. Parents are responsible to support the school in maintaining a safe, respectful school climate.

7. Bullying that occurs outside of the school may affect the safe and caring environment within the school and the principal or designate may take appropriate action.
8. Consequences for bullying may be dealt with through:
 - a) Board policies and procedures, including
 - i) Policy IF CJ – Student Violence,
 - ii) Policy IFCL – Use of Cell Phones and Electronic Devices,
 - iii) Policy JAB – Conflict Resolution,
 - b) Complaint to the RCMP that may lead to criminal charges.

REFERENCES

Cross References: links to

[Policy IF CJ – Student Violence](#)

[Policy IFCL – Use of Cell Phones and Electronic Devices](#)

[Policy JAB – Conflict Resolution](#)

Youth Criminal Justice Act (<http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/yj-jj/ycja-lsipa/ycja-lsipa.html>)

Criminal Code of Canada (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/C-46/>)

Legal Reference: School Act RSA 2000 Section 12, 45-8

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