

Anti-Bullying Policy

School Name: United Private School Branch 1

Policy Effective Date: August 18, 2025

Next Review Date: August 2026

1. Introduction

United Private School Branch 1(UPS) is committed to creating a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment where every student is treated with respect, dignity, and kindness. Bullying in any form, whether physical, verbal, or cyber, will not be tolerated. This policy aims to prevent bullying, address any incidents that occur, and promote a culture of mutual respect and understanding within the school community.

2. Definition of Bullying

Bullying is any intentional act that causes physical, emotional, or psychological harm to another person. It can take many forms, including but not limited to:

- **Physical Bullying:** Hitting, kicking, or other physical harm.
- **Verbal Bullying:** Insults, name-calling, threats, or belittling comments.
- **Social Bullying:** Excluding others from social groups, spreading rumors, or damaging someone's reputation.
- **Cyberbullying:** Using digital platforms (social media, messaging apps, etc.) to harass or threaten others.

3. Objectives of the Anti-Bullying Policy

- **To prevent bullying** by promoting a positive and respectful school culture.
- **To provide support** for victims of bullying and help them feel safe.
- **To intervene promptly** and effectively when bullying occurs.
- **To educate students and staff** about the effects of bullying and the importance of kindness and respect.
- **To engage with parents and the community** in creating a safe learning environment.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 School Staff

- Promote a culture of kindness, respect, and inclusivity in the school.
- Regularly monitor student interactions, particularly during unstructured times such as recess and lunch.
- Address any signs of bullying promptly and take appropriate action according to the school's procedures.

- Provide education to students on the importance of respecting one another and the negative effects of bullying.
- Support students who have been bullied, offering counseling and guidance where necessary.

4.2 Students

- Treat all peers with respect and kindness.
- Report bullying incidents to a teacher or trusted adult.
- Support classmates who may be victims of bullying.
- Participate in anti-bullying programs and initiatives.

4.3 Parents

- Encourage open communication with their children about bullying and school life.
- Support the school in reinforcing positive behaviors and addressing bullying incidents.
- Participate in awareness programs, workshops, and meetings about bullying prevention.

5. Reporting Bullying

- **How to Report:** Students can report bullying incidents to any teacher, school counselor, or school leader. There is also an anonymous reporting system available to ensure the safety and privacy of students.
- **What Happens After a Report:** When a report is received, the school will immediately investigate the incident in a fair and impartial manner. The investigation will involve speaking with the victim, the alleged bully, and any witnesses.
- **Confidentiality:** All reports will be handled with confidentiality, and the identities of those involved will be protected to the greatest extent possible.

6. Procedures for Addressing Bullying

- **Initial Investigation:** The school will investigate every reported incident of bullying. This includes gathering statements from all parties involved and reviewing evidence.
- **Support for Victims:** Victims of bullying will receive immediate support. This may include counseling, social skills development, or mediation sessions with a school counselor.
- **Disciplinary Actions:** Disciplinary actions will vary depending on the severity of the bullying and may include:
 - A warning and meeting with the student and their parents.
 - Temporary removal from school activities.
 - Suspension or expulsion for repeated or severe cases of bullying.
 - Reflection sessions or behavioral contracts to help the bully understand the consequences of their actions.

7. Prevention and Awareness

- **Education:** Anti-bullying awareness and character education will be incorporated into the curriculum, including regular workshops and lessons on empathy, respect, and digital citizenship.
- **Anti-Bullying Campaigns:** The school will organize campaigns such as "No Bullying Week" or student-led initiatives that raise awareness about the importance of kindness and inclusion.
- **Peer Mentoring:** Older students will be encouraged to act as role models and mentors to younger students, fostering a culture of support and friendship.

8. Online and Cyberbullying Policy

- Cyberbullying is equally harmful as traditional bullying and will not be tolerated.
- Students will be educated about responsible online behavior and the potential consequences of their actions.
- The school will monitor online behavior, particularly through school networks, and take action against any form of cyberbullying, including on social media platforms.
- The school will work with parents to help monitor students' online interactions.

9. Policy Review and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed regularly by the school leadership team to ensure its effectiveness. Feedback will be sought from students, parents, and staff. Modifications may be made if necessary to adapt to new trends or challenges related to bullying.

10. Conclusion

At UPS, we believe every student has the right to learn and grow in a safe and respectful environment. We are committed to working together as a community to prevent bullying and support the well-being of all our students.

For further information or to report bullying, please contact Ms. Shadia (Social Worker) +971 56 714 4363

This policy is aligned with the values of respect, responsibility, and community within the context of the UAE, where diversity is celebrated, and the welfare of all students is prioritized.

Approved by:

Mr. Raed Fhaker Eddin

School Principal