

BULLYING PREVENTION POLICY

Greenwood Christian School

At Greenwood Christian School, we are committed to creating a Christ-centered environment where every student feels safe, valued, and supported. A sense of safety is essential for students to grow academically, socially, and spiritually. As part of that commitment, we have established a Bullying Prevention Policy to clearly define and address behaviors that compromise the well-being of any member of our school community.

Definition of Bullying

Bullying is defined as intentional, repeated hurtful actions, words, or behaviors—such as name-calling, threatening, exclusion, or physical harm—committed by one or more individuals to intimidate, belittle, or exert power over another. These actions are unprovoked by the victim and occur in the context of an imbalance of real or perceived power between the aggressor and the target.

Types of Bullying

- **Physical Bullying:** Any aggressive physical contact including pushing, hitting, kicking, or other physical actions intended to harm or intimidate.
- **Verbal Bullying:** The use of spoken or written words to insult, ridicule, or demean others. This includes teasing, name-calling, threats, and other verbal attacks.
- **Cyberbullying:** Using digital communication tools (texts, social media, email, etc.) to harass, threaten, or embarrass others. Cyberbullying may include sharing harmful messages, spreading rumors, or engaging in online exclusion or humiliation.
- **Emotional/Social Bullying:** Actions that intentionally harm someone's self-esteem or relationships, including exclusion, manipulation, public embarrassment, and rumor spreading.
- **Sexual Bullying:** Any unwanted or inappropriate behavior of a sexual nature, including harassment, suggestive comments, exhibitionism, or physical contact.

Reporting Bullying

Greenwood Christian School encourages open and respectful communication. Students should report any incident of bullying to a teacher, staff member, or administrator. Reports may also be made anonymously via written note, voicemail, or email.

All staff are expected to report bullying incidents to the **elementary principal** or school administrator. If a concern involves a supervisor, staff should follow the principles outlined in Matthew 18—addressing the individual directly or seeking counsel through the appropriate chain of accountability.

An official bullying report form will be completed and submitted to administration for review and follow-up.

Student Consequences for Bullying

- **First Offense:** The teacher and/or administration will investigate the incident and facilitate a restorative conversation, helping students recognize their actions and their impact. Parents of both parties will be notified.
- **Repeat Offenses:** Continued incidents will involve deeper administrative intervention, including direct parent communication. Disciplinary actions may include loss of privileges (technology, activities, etc.), behavioral contracts, and/or suspension.
- **Ongoing Behavior:** If bullying behavior persists and there is no meaningful behavioral change, further consequences may include expulsion.

Greenwood Christian School reserves the right to take immediate and appropriate disciplinary action based on the severity of the incident, in alignment with our mission to love and protect all children under our care.