

The Prout School Bullying Policy

BULLYING DEFINITION

Bullying is a form of harassment. For the purposes of this policy, bullying is defined as:

The repeated intimidation of others by the real or threatened infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted, or emotional abuse, or through attacks on the property of another. It may include, but not limited to actions such as verbal taunts, name-calling, and put downs, including ethnically-based or gender based verbal put downs, and extortion of money or possessions.

Students who engage in any act of bullying while at school, at any school function, in connection with any school sponsored activity or event, or while in route to or from school are subject to school disciplinary policies, up to and including suspension and expulsion, subject to applicable due process requirements, will be imposed. Law enforcement officials shall be notified of bullying incidents as required by law.

There are four main kinds of bullying. Here are some examples:

Physical Bullying-when someone hits, shoves, kicks, spits or beats up on others, including damaging or stealing another student's property.

Verbal Bullying-name calling, mocking, hurtful teasing, using comments of a sexual or racial nature, humiliating or threatening someone, making people do things they do not want to do.

Social Bullying-excluding others from the group, spreading gossip or rumors about others, making others look foolish, or making sure others do not spend time with a certain person.

Electronic Bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication such as (but not limited to):

- Using a computer, e-mail, instant messaging, photo electronic or photo optical systems, phone or cellular phone text messages to threaten or hurt someone's feelings, single out, embarrass or make someone look bad, spread rumors or reveal secrets about someone.
- The creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person
- The knowing impersonation of another person as the author of a posted content or message
- The distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of materials on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, of the creation, impersonation, or distribution results in any of the conditions enumerated the Prout School bullying policy.

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BULLYING PROHIBITION AND PREVENTION

The Prout School will maintain an environment that is free from all forms of intimidation and harassment: physical, verbal, written, psychological, social and electronic.

Bullying is an offense against human dignity and Christian charity. The Prout School does not tolerate any action from any member of the Prout community that may be defined as bullying/cyber bullying under RI statute 16-21-34.

The Prout School is working to eliminate bullying and harassment in all forms within our school in order to provide a safe and secure school climate so that all students may learn. We seek to create a school environment where the dignity of all is guarded and where each member treats one another with respect. As such, any behavior which is contrary to this objective is unacceptable. It is important that all members of our community are aware of school policies including what bullying looks like.

The school principal, or his designee, shall investigate all reports of bullying/cyber-bullying. The victim of bullying or anyone who knows of or witnesses an incident of bullying shall make a report to the school. Forms are available from the Main Office, the Guidance Office or the Dean of Students. A copy of The Prout School *Bullying and/or Cyberbullying* report form may be found on the Prout School website www.theproutschool.org.