

# **Bullying Guidelines and Procedures**

(In Accordance with Uxbridge School Committee Policy JICFB)

Taft Elementary School is committed to maintaining a positive and safe school environment that is free of bullying. Bullying of students by other students will not be tolerated at Taft School. This policy will be enforced while students are in school, on school grounds, on school buses, or attending school related activities.

Bullying is defined as the act of one or more individuals intimidating another person through verbal, physical, and/or social hurtful behavior. Bullying generally involves a pattern of conduct at another person. However, a single incident of behavior may constitute bullying depending on the nature/severity of the incident.

Verbal bullying may include but is not limited to:

- Careless, hurtful remarks
- Spoken or written teasing, taunting, or threats
- Slang names or labels that others find offensive
- Sending mean notes
- Cyber-bullying
- Spreading rumors
- False accusations
- Laughing or sneering
- Inappropriate personal questions or remarks about a person's clothing, body, or sexuality

Social bullying may include but is not limited to:

- Social isolation
- Convincing one's peers to exclude or reject certain persons and cut them off from their social connections
- Retaliation against another student

Physical bullying may include but is not limited to:

- Taking or damaging someone's property
- Blocking another student's way
- Pushing, shoving, kicking, hitting, slapping, punching, or pinning down

Note: Students are cautioned that physical play (rough-housing) escalates quickly and may be subject to disciplinary action.

Students whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the Taft Principal/Assistant Principal. Discipline will be appropriate to the offense and the students may be disciplined up to and including suspension from school.

The following disciplinary actions may be enforced:

- For every incident, warning will be issued to the student(s), parents will be notified by phone and/or mail, and student(s) will apologize.
- After-school or recess detention may be assigned.
- Students may be excluded from attending certain school events or activities.
- Parent conference may be required.
- For serious incidents, suspension from school may be enforced.

#### School Programs to Prevent Bullying:

The Taft staff will implement a variety of curriculum programs, schoolwide activities, and special assemblies to help prevent bullying at the school. Prevention activities may include:

- Special classroom lessons at the beginning of the school year and whenever deemed necessary.
- Ongoing implementation of the Open Circle Curriculum by all classroom teachers.
- Special student assemblies that address topics related to bullying
- Special school spirit days that focus on friendship, respect, caring, courtesy, and teamwork.

Taft School will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.