

1. RCHK statement / position on bullying

Renaissance College mission statement clearly states the desire to create a diverse and inclusive community;

RCHK strives to build a culture, which promotes peace and democracy, values diversity, and works toward a sustainable future for all.

In working towards this mission statement, this policy aims to highlight the community's efforts to eliminate bullying of all kinds

2. Bullying Definition

Bullying is defined as ongoing and repetitive behaviour which aims to illustrate one person's power and superiority by infringing on another student's RCHK rights. It can be categorised into several types;

Physical - using physical violence to intimidate and harass another person

Verbal - abusing another using names, language, taunts and swearing

Emotional - excluding, whispering and tormenting another person to make them unhappy

Cyber bullying - using blogs, chatrooms, text or instant messaging to intimidate someone

Motives for bullying can be manifold but might be racist, homophobic, sexual or social

3. What RCHK can do

The College will make available a list of resources to help students and teachers deal with the issue of bullying. This will be available on the College website.

The following stakeholders in the RCHK community are expected to work to eliminate bullying in the following ways. These are not exhaustive lists and there are many more actions that can be taken.

3.1 Student community

Students should;

- be aware of what bullying is as defined here and understand the definition of bullying
- act - seek help for yourself or others, intervene if you witness bullying
- support each other and provide support for those around you

- be aware of strategies to deal with bullying and sources of support (which are available on the school website)
- consider the consequences of your actions - does everyone find your 'joke' funny?

3.2 Teaching community

Teachers should;

- be aware of social changes and student mood
- intervene when they suspect a student is unhappy
- listen to complaints of bullying and take them seriously
- respect that it takes a great deal of courage to discuss and therefore should treat it seriously
- provide support for student in the most appropriate way, including referral to HOY, counsellor, VP
- consistently apply the RCHK Behaviour Guidelines in relation to bullying

3.3 Parent community

Parents should;

- talk to students regularly about what is happening at school
- make themselves aware of the issue around bullying
- discuss possible strategies to deal with the bullying (available on the RCHK website)
- inform school at the most appropriate time

This policy was written on 2nd March 2009 by;

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and will be reviewed annually.