

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

As a school we endeavour to maintain open and honest dialogue with our families and the wider community. Similarly, we regularly listen to the perceptions and experiences of our pupils. It has come to our attention that there may be some concern about bullying in secondary schools. We would therefore like to take some time to both reassure you with regard to Oldbury Academy's stance but also let you know of some of the preventative work that we do with our pupils.

In the first instance we would like to reassure you that bullying is very rare at Oldbury Academy. During the last academic year there were 67 incidents of bullying. This is across 7 year groups and around 1600 pupils through an entire school year! Bullying incidents represented just 0.37% of all the behaviour incidents. I'm sure you will agree therefore that bullying is very unusual at Oldbury Academy and we want it to stay that way!

We have a clear anti-bullying policy, which can be accessed online through the policies section of our website [www.oldburyacademy.com](http://www.oldburyacademy.com). It is very clear in our ethos:

*At Oldbury Academy we believe that pupils have the right to learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without the fear of being bullied. All institutions, both large and small, contain some numbers of pupils with the potential for bullying behaviour. If a school is well disciplined and organized, it can minimise the occurrence of bullying. This School has a clear policy on the promotion of good citizenship, where it is made clear that bullying is a form of anti-social behaviour. It is WRONG and will not be tolerated.*

In our experience prevention is far better than cure and we are very proactive in ensuring that our school community knows that bullying will not be tolerated and how to identify and deal with bullying if it does happen. Our staff are extensively trained and very experienced but we also want to educate our young people. To this end we:

- Deliver focused assemblies to all year groups on bullying and the effects that it can have.
- For the first time this year all year 7s receive PSHE lessons in addition to form tutor led registration sessions. The entire first half term is spent looking at bullying in more depth.
- We recognise and celebrate anti-bullying week in November.
- We welcome outside speakers and workshops that deliver messages of tolerance, respect and community such as Game On and Loudmouth.
- We have developed a much stronger ethos of Student Leadership to ensure there are many positive student role models around school.
- We have regular student voice activities that take place that have resulted in real and effective change on a whole-school basis with student safety regularly being discussed.
- We have an open door policy for parents and pupils to discuss concerns.
- We provide parents with resources to help them dealing with bullying and support their child.

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- We have a dedicated email address through which pupils can alert us to bullying in a potentially less worrying and daunting way (see below).
- We train all staff to be vigilant to the signs of peer abuse.
- We deliver sessions on the reasons behind, impacts of and methods for dealing with bullying through PSHE form time sessions.
- Most importantly we encourage pupils to be resilient and self-assured, with substantial support for pupils with low self-esteem or specific vulnerabilities.

We are very proud to say that the vast majority of our students are responsible, respectful and caring young people who would never dream of bullying another and are always quick to support each other, however if you have concerns about bullying, your child is experiencing any difficulty with others or your child is anxious about coming to school, then please do contact us. We are here to help.

You are welcome to contact us on the email address [nomorebullying@oldburyacademy.org.uk](mailto:nomorebullying@oldburyacademy.org.uk) with information including your child's name and information about any issues we need to resolve or by making direct contact with your child's year team, Mr P Davis & Mr D Burgoyne, who lead the pastoral team or Mrs G Tillotson, our Designated Safeguarding Lead.

We want to work with parents and carers to ensure the safety, happiness and success of all of our young people and will continue to keep you updated on important information.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs G Tillotson  
Assistant Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead