

Garrison Union Free School District

Statement on Bullying

Garrison is a Bully-Free School

Bullying is when one person deliberately and repeatedly intimidates, harasses or hurts another person.

Bullying always involves an imbalance of power where the target has an inability to defend him/herself. Bullying can take many forms:

- Physical** hitting, kicking, shoving, punching, spitting, stealing, defacing property
- Verbal** teasing, taunting, name calling, put-downs, threatening remarks, embarrassing
- Relational** excluding or intentionally leaving a person out, damaging or manipulating a person's relationships with others, gossiping or spreading rumors, intimidating

Role of the school

At the Garrison School, we do not tolerate bullying. Teachers and support staff have taken the necessary steps to develop a school-wide culture of caring and tolerance. Every report of bullying is documented. Depending upon the nature of the incident, the appropriate consequences will be implemented. A system of consequences is in place, which takes into account the age of the student, type/severity of the bullying behavior and the number of previous incidents.

All students, K-8, participate in regular Guidance classes that promote positive behaviors, conflict management skills, tolerance and inclusion. Students are empowered to develop their own "voice" in an effort to speak up and seek help when bullying occurs. Students have been taught how to recognize bullying behaviors and have been given the strategies to manage bullying as it occurs.

Role of students

Students are expected to report incidents of bullying to a trusted adult, whether it be verbally or through a written report submitted to the "bully box." Students have been asked to sign an *Anti-Bullying Pledge*. This pledge includes a promise to treat others respectfully, include those who are left out and to not watch, laugh or join in when someone is being bullied.

Role of Parents

Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher in the event they suspect their child is a target of bullying or is participating in bullying behaviors. Telling your child to avoid the situation or ignore a particular student does not promote a positive resolution. Instead, validate your child's feelings while encouraging the development of assertive behaviors. Role playing situations at home can be helpful in preparing children for real life situations. Taking steps to foster your child's social relationships will also help protect them. Parents, along with school personnel, must model respectful, kind, and tolerant behaviors when interacting with others.

For More Information

Your child's teacher is the best source of information regarding his or her education and social needs. When further intervention is needed, please contact the School Social Worker (x 237), Guidance Counselor (x 589), School Psychologist (x 238), or School Nurse (x. 226). For additional resources regarding school policies, please refer to the school's Code of Conduct and Student Handbooks.