



STOP agreement

The Kingswinford School operates a 'zero tolerance' approach towards bullying. This means that, when bullying is identified, we will always take action – a significant punishment will always be issued; support will always be offered; restorative work will always take place. One of the biggest challenges facing the victims of bullying is the potential for further action in response to reporting bullying. One of the biggest challenges facing schools is that the perception of bullying varies between all individuals concerned.

The School's definition of bullying is 'Several Times On Purpose' (STOP). There are occasions in which we might seek to prevent bullying taking place where we know there is a risk (either because an incident has not been 'several times'; does not meet our definition of 'on purpose'; or because there is not enough evidence to form justifiable response) or following identified bullying incidents. In such cases, we issue a STOP agreement and require all involved students to sign.



STOP AGREEMENT

This agreement recognises that an issue has developed between students or groups of students identified below:

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By signing this agreement, we recognise our responsibility within the school to uphold our zero tolerance approach to bullying. In doing so we agree that:

- Any report of verbal, physical, emotional or cyber assault will be considered as a potential bullying incident
- Any such incident will be fully investigated by the schools pastoral team
- Should the team find that such an assault has occurred, this will be logged as a bullying incident and the aggressor will be sanctioned significantly no matter the scale of the incident
- Repeated incidents of bullying under this agreement will result in rapid escalation of sanction (up to and including permanent exclusion)
- All parties involved, whatever the circumstances up to this point, bear the same burden of responsibility and level of accountability: resolving potential bullying incidents is a two way process
- Malicious false reporting of incidents will also be considered as a bullying incident
- Bullying has an ongoing impact on students and as such any action taken outside of school hours and/or off the school site will have an impact during school hours and as such will be subject to the restrictions of this agreement
- Protecting those who are bullying others by lying, deliberately deceiving or deliberately withholding information from investigating staff in order to protect others is, by implication, being complicit in bullying activity by Joint Enterprise

This agreement will be in place for a period of time no shorter than 6 months and will be reviewed at that time. A copy of this agreement will be held on every student involved's file. A notification of this agreement will be passed to parents. The School expects Parents to support and uphold this agreement in effort to reduce tension and resolve the situation.

Signed.....

Date.....

Head of House.....

Date.....