ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

AIM OF POLICY - to ensure that **STUDENTS LEARN IN A SUPPORTIVE, CARING AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT WITHOUT FEAR OF BEING BULLIED.** Bullying is:

- **Anti-social behaviour** and affects everyone.
- **Unacceptable** and **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**.
- **Deliberately hurtful behaviour**, repeated over a period, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

TYPES OF BULLYING -   The three main types of bullying are:

a. **PHYSICAL** (hitting, kicking, theft);
b. **VERBAL** (name calling, racist remarks);
c. **INDIRECT** (spreading rumours, excluding someone from social groups);
d. **CYBERBULLYING** (harassment through the use of social media);
e. **RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS;**
f. **SEXUAL.**

Students who are being bullied may show changes in behaviour, such as becoming shy and nervous, feigning illness or taking unusual absences. There may be evidence of changes in work patterns, lacking concentration or truanting from school.

STUDENTS MUST BE ENCOURAGED TO REPORT BULLYING IN SCHOOLS

DUTY OF THE SCHOOL – The school is alert to the signs of bullying and act promptly and firmly against it in accordance with school policy. In an attempt to eradicate such behavior, the nature of bullying is discussed through lessons of PSD, form teacher period and assemblies.

IMPLEMENTATION BY THE SCHOOL   - Steps taken when dealing with bullying:

- **The incident will be dealt with immediately** by the member of staff approached.
- A clear account of the incident will be **recorded into the Student's Report Book**.
- The school administration and teaching staff will question all concerned.
- **Parents will be informed through a letter**.
- **Corrective measures will be used as appropriate** and in consultation with all parties concerned.

ACTION TAKEN IN RESPECT OF VICTIMS - They will be supported by:

- Offering an immediate opportunity to **discuss the experience.**

- **Reassuring the student.**
- **Offering continuous support.**

ACTION TAKEN IN RESPECT OF BULLIES - They will be helped by:

- **Discussing** what happened.
- **Discovering why** the student became involved.
- **Establishing the wrong doing** that need to change