

## LLE Safeguarding Policy (SP)

### **SP8 – Bullying Policy and Procedure**

*Date of policy: 20 May 2015*

*Last reviewed: 2 January 2018, 14 December 2018, 4 December 2019, 11 December 2020, 14 January 2022, 20 January 2023; 29 October 2023; 20 December 2024*

*Next review date: December 2025 or whenever necessary*

### **About Bullying**

Bullying can occur in any group of people whatever its type or size or the age of its members. There are many different forms of bullying; at one end of the scale it can be teasing and at the other it becomes serious assault or harassment. Verbal and psychological bullying can be just as harmful and hurtful as physical violence. Sexual and racial harassment are particularly serious forms of bullying. Many children, and adults, are bullied because they are seen to be 'different' – because of their race, religion or culture, because of their sexuality, because of their gender, or because of any special educational needs or disabilities they may have.

### **Signs of Bullying**

Some of the ways in which children and young people have described bullying include:

- being called names or being teased either online or in person
- being pushed, hit, kicked, poked or physically hurt in some way
- having money or personal possessions taken or damaged
- having rumours spread or being ignored or left out/ostracised
- being threatened or made to feel frightened or intimidated
- being stalked

### **Cyberbullying**

Our definition of Cyber bullying includes but is not limited to the following behaviours, abusive or threatening emails or messages, posting abusive comments on social media sites, sharing humiliating videos or photos of someone else, stealing someone's online identity, spreading rumours online, trolling – sending menacing or upsetting messages through social networks, messenger apps, chatrooms or games, developing hate sites about another person, prank calls or messages, group bullying or exclusion online, anonymous messaging, encouraging a young person to self-harm on-line and/or pressuring children into sending inappropriate material.

We acknowledge that bullying online can differ from offline bullying in that it can be inescapable, anonymous, widely shared and can be stored permanently. People may bully online as a form of entertainment, for revenge or to protect a friend. In all cases this behaviour is unacceptable.

It is important through our day-to-day work that we educate children about the harm online and offline bullying can do. Any child who experiences bullying should feel supported, believed and that they can share their concerns with any member of staff, teacher or homestay host. All concerns and disclosures must be passed on to the Designated Safeguarding Lead following the normal procedures.

## Effects of Bullying

The effects of bullying can lead to children and young people to:

- becoming depressed and/or suicidal
- experiencing low self esteem
- becoming shy and withdrawn
- self-harm
- becoming self-conscious
- experiencing physical complaints, like constant stomach aches and headaches, which are brought on by stress
- feeling anxious
- becoming aggressive
- to start to bully other children or adults

**LLE does not tolerate the bullying of other people in any form whatsoever and all incidents of bullying reported to LLE will be fully investigated.**

### **LLE Students will:**

- respect other people, their space and their belongings
- be kind to others, even if they are not our friends
- try to get help and tell a responsible adult
- ask for help if we are being bullied

**LLE students are given the following advice about bullying:**

- Talk to or contact someone you trust, such as your homestay host, parent, friend or your Agency / ETO (Educational Tour Operator).
- Be persistent. If the first person you talk to doesn't help, don't give up. Speak to someone else.
- If you can, write down everything that has been said or done to hurt you. Try to write down how you feel. When you have found someone you can trust, discuss what you have written.
- If you find it difficult to talk to an adult ask someone to talk to an adult on your behalf.
- Telephone the LLE emergency number: +44 (0) 117 9269400/1
- Telephone the LLE Office: +44 (0) 117 926 9400
- Telephone ChildLine (Freephone 0800 1111). Their helpers provide a confidential helpline for young people.
- Most importantly, do something. Sometimes bullying stops quickly, but doing nothing means it may continue until someone is seriously upset or hurt.