

# Washington Anti-Bullying Policy

**Everyone at Washington Elementary School is committed to making our school a safe and caring place for all students. We will treat each other with respect, and we will refuse to tolerate bullying in any form at our school.**

**Our school defines *bullying* as follows:**

Bullying is unfair and one-sided. It happens when someone keeps hurting, frightening, threatening, or leaving someone out on purpose.

**Examples of bullying include:**

- Hurting someone physically by hitting, kicking, tripping, pushing, and so on.
- Stealing or damaging another person’s things.
- Ganging up on someone.
- Teasing someone in a hurtful way.
- Using put-downs, such as insulting of someone’s race or making fun of someone for being a boy or a girl.
- Touching or showing private body parts.
- Spreading rumors about someone.
- Leaving someone out on purpose or trying to get other kids not to play with someone.

**Staff at our school will do the following things to prevent bullying and help children feel safe at school:**

- Closely supervise students in all areas of the school and playground.
- Watch for signs of bullying and stop it when it happens.
- Teach the *Steps to Respect* program to students in grades 3-5.
- Respond quickly and sensitively to bullying reports by affirming the child’s feelings, asking questions, assessing the child’s safety, and determining the next course of action.
- Take seriously parents’ concerns about bullying.
- Look into all reported bullying incidents.
- Assign consequences for bullying based on the school discipline code.
- Provide immediate consequences for retaliation against students who report bullying.

**Students at our school will do the following things to prevent bullying:**

- Treat each other respectfully.
- Refuse to bully others.
- Refuse to let others be bullied.
- Refuse to watch, laugh, or join in when someone is being bullied.
- Try to include everyone in play, especially those who are often left out.
- Report bullying to an adult.