

KHS Anti-Bullying Survey – A Summary

Pupil Results

The survey was completed in May 2016 by all pupils in Years 8 -11.

Pupils were asked if they had experienced bullying in the last 12 months:

Yes	21%
No	71%
Not sure	5%
Prefer not to say	3%

Bullying happens in all schools. Thankfully, pupil responses show that it is not the norm and that bullying is rare. It is also important that a distinction between bullying and behaviour incidents is made. An agreed definition of bullying (NIABF) which is used in schools to distinguish bullying behaviour from other behaviours is

- *It is repetitive and persistent.*
- *It is intentionally harmful.*
- *It involves an imbalance of power, leaving someone feeling helpless to prevent it or put a stop to it.*
- *It causes distress.*

Pupils who said they had experienced bullying were asked if they had reported it:

Yes	37%
No	63%

As parents and as a school, we need to encourage our young people to report bullying that occurs if it is directed at them but also if it is directed at others. Bullying behaviour thrives on secrecy; the only way to deal with it, is to tell a trusted individual.

Pupils were asked what form the bullying took:

Physical	18%
Verbal	55%
Indirect	27%

Verbal bullying remains the most common form of bullying behaviour, when bullying occurs. It is a means of using words in a negative way such as insults, teasing, put downs, etc., to gain power over someone else's life. This type of behaviour can be very harmful to the target of the bullying; as a school we will take all such allegations seriously and implement the policies and procedures we have in place to deal with it.

Pupils were asked how well they felt KHS deals with bullying:

- Almost $\frac{2}{3}$ feel that staff care for those who are concerned about bullying.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ of pupils surveyed feel that KHS deals well with bullying.

All staff in KHS are aware of how to deal with bullying; indeed, further staff training is planned for the future. Pupils (and parents!) can have confidence that we will take all allegations of bullying seriously and will implement our procedures to deal with it. It is absolutely true that in KHS, every child matters.

Pupils were asked what they thought would work best to help deal with bullying in school. The top 3 answers were:

1. Clear rules about bullying and what will happen if you bully.
2. An adult you can talk to if you are worried about bullying.
3. An Anti-Bullying Policy that makes it clear what bullying is and how it will be stopped.

We agree that clear rules are important and that effective procedures are in place. We review our anti-bullying policy regularly. A review is planned for Term 3 and we will be asking for your views on our policy at that time. We also agree that it is really important for pupils to have someone to talk to. Our pastoral system is arranged so that every pupil has a form tutor who knows the children in his/her form class really well. This should be a first port of call for pupils though they can talk to Subject Teachers and Year Heads as well, if they have concerns. Pupils should have confidence that their concerns will be treated sensitively and taken seriously and that our policy will be implemented.

Parent Results

We asked:

Has your child been bullied in the last 12 months?

Yes	16%
No	82%
Not sure	2%
Prefer not to say	0

Did you report the bullying to anyone in school?

Yes	16%
No	82%
Not sure	2%
Prefer not to say	0

It is essential that all incidents of bullying are reported to staff. We ask that you to encourage your child to report any concerns that he/she might have to Form Tutors. If your child reports bullying to you but he/she has not reported it to us, please pick up the phone and give us a call. Your child's Form Tutor will return your call and discuss the matter with you. Form Tutors will decide on the best course of action. This may mean referring the incident to the relevant Year Head, Senior Teacher or to a Vice Principal. Reporting is always best done as soon as possible after the event.

How confident are you that KHS deals well with bullying?

Over 80% of respondents said that they had confidence in how KHS deals with bullying.

How confident are you that KHS would listen if either you or your child had concerns about bullying?

Almost 90% of respondents said that they had confidence that KHS would to listen to concerns.

What do you think would prevent bullying in school? (Top 3 responses)

1. Punish young people who bully others.
2. Make sure young people know how to report incidents of bullying.
3. Increase the level of supervision in play areas and corridors.

At KHS, we appreciate that sanctions can sometimes be useful as part of a range of strategies for dealing with bullying behaviour. In addition, we feel that support should be offered to pupils displaying bullying behaviour as well as the targets of that behaviour. The purpose of this is to help pupils understand why they are behaving in an inappropriate manner and to develop an understanding of the consequences of their actions on others. Our aim is to enable young people to make the right choices and to stop bullying behaviour from being repeated.

We agree that supervision is important. We ensure that there is additional supervision at unstructured times e.g. mornings, break time and before and after school. Staff maintain a visible presence in the corridors during busy class changeover times. Staff are informed (in confidence) when there is an issue or difficulty between pupils, so that they can keep an eye on the situation.

A sincere thank you goes to all pupils and parents who took the time to complete the survey. Your responses and comments will be used to inform policy and procedures in our school. We value your input and will be consulting with you about the specifics of our anti- bullying policy in the near future.