Anti-Bullying Policy

Introduction
At Al Madinah Online Secondary School, we are committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all our students. Bullying in any form is unacceptable, and we strive to ensure that all students feel respected and valued. This policy outlines our approach to preventing and addressing bullying.

Definition of Bullying
Bullying is any intentional behaviour that causes harm, distress, or upset to others. It can take many forms, including:

- Physical bullying: Hitting, pushing, or any form of physical harm.

- Verbal bullying: Name-calling, insults, teasing, or offensive comments.

- Social bullying: Exclusion, spreading rumours, or damaging someone's reputation.

- Cyberbullying: Harassment or bullying through digital platforms such as social media, messaging apps, or online games.

Aims of the Policy

- To ensure that bullying is not tolerated at any level within the school.

- To foster a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment.

- To provide clear procedures for reporting and addressing bullying incidents.

- To educate students on the importance of empathy, kindness, and respect for one another.

Preventative Measures

- Awareness: Regular discussions and lessons about bullying, its effects, and how to prevent it.

- Promoting Respect: Encouraging positive behaviour and mutual respect through school-wide campaigns and classroom activities.

- Staff Training: Ensuring all staff are trained to recognize, prevent, and deal with bullying effectively.

Reporting Bullying

- Students, staff, and parents are encouraged to report any incidents of bullying to the school as soon as possible. Reports can be made to the school's designated Anti-Bullying Coordinator or any other trusted staff member.

- Reports can be made in writing, via email, or through video calls, allowing for ease of communication in an online setting.

Responding to Bullying

Once a report of bullying has been made, the school will:

- Investigate the incident promptly and thoroughly, gathering all relevant information.

- Provide support to the victim(s), ensuring they feel heard and safe.

- Take appropriate action against the perpetrator(s), which may include warnings, sanctions, or other measures in line with the school's behavior policy.

- Engage with parents of both the victim and perpetrator to ensure open communication and joint support.

Support for Victims

- Provide counselling or emotional support to victims of bullying.

- Implement strategies to help students feel safe and confident in reporting further incidents.

Support for Perpetrators

- Provide opportunities for perpetrators to understand the consequences of their actions and work towards changing their behaviour.

- Encourage restorative practices, where appropriate, to allow for reflection and reconciliation.

Disciplinary Measures

If bullying behaviour continues or is deemed particularly harmful, the following disciplinary actions may be taken:

- Temporary or permanent suspension from the school.

- Required counselling or behaviour improvement programs.

- In extreme cases, permanent expulsion may be considered.

Monitoring and Review

- The school will monitor the effectiveness of this policy regularly, including reviewing the number of reported incidents and the steps taken to resolve them.

- The policy will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the school community.

Conclusion

Al Madinah Online Secondary School is dedicated to providing a safe and positive learning environment. By working together, we can prevent bullying and ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn and grow in a respectful, supportive environment.