

## Statement on Bullying

### **What is bullying?**

As provided in the South Carolina Safe Schools Climate Act, Greenville County Schools prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying of a students by another student or students, staff, or third parties that interferes with or disrupts a student's ability to learn and the schools responsibility to educate its students in a safe and orderly manner.

"Harassment, intimidation, or bullying" is defined as a gesture, an electronic communication, or a written, verbal, physical, or sexual act that a reasonable person should know will have the effect of:

- a) Harming a student, physically or emotionally, or damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of personal harm or damage to his property; or
- b) Insulting or demeaning a student or group of students in such a way as to cause substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school. (BoardDocs:Policy – JCDAG)

Bullying is different from a single incident of teasing. It is also distinct from the normal conflicts of childhood. It is not bullying when two children of approximately equal strength or power have a fight. In addition to being physical, bullying can also be verbal and psychological in nature.

Bullies may:

- Spread rumors about others
- Write nasty things about classmates
- Intentional exclude others
- Take or damage other students' possessions
- Repeatedly taunt or ridicule others
- Persuade peers to reject others
- Cyber bully by sending offensive messages to others via computer or cell phone.

### **Bullying prevention at Woodland Elementary**

An effective bullying prevention program is one of a culture changing strategy. At Woodland Elementary we promote kindness and respect. The core of effective character education is promoting positive behavior through phases of school life. We want to bring out the best in students, teach what is right before something goes wrong, set high standards, and hold everyone (kids and adults) accountable. We uphold standards of behavior which honor the dignity and worth of all individuals.

### **Responding to bullying at school**