



**ENERGY COAST UTC**

**ANTI-BULLYING POLICY**

**2025-2028**

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Revision History			
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0	June 2016	LM	Updated content
1	September 2016	LM	Reference to Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE (July 2016). Changes in the sections below to include reference to peer-to-peer bullying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Definitions of bullying</li><li>• Responsibilities of staff, students and parents/carers</li><li>• Response to bullying</li><li>• Procedures for dealing with bullying</li></ul>
2	May 2017	BLS	Change of Reference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Independent School Standard Regulations (2010) to The education (independent school standards) regulations 2014</li><li>• The Ofsted School Inspection Handbook (2015) – (2016)</li><li>• Head of Key Stage changed to Head of Year.</li><li>• Assistant Principal changed to Vice Principal</li></ul>
3	April 2019	CBT	Updated content
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## **Introduction**

Energy Coast UTC is committed to providing a safe and caring environment which fosters self-esteem and respect for others. The UTC is dedicated to promoting and maintaining a positive learning environment where all students are welcomed, supported, and feel socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically safe. It does not tolerate bullying in any form. By its nature, bullying is contrary to the values of the College, is unacceptable and is a Whole-College issue. If bullying does occur, all students should be able to report the incident and know that it will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

## **Legislation**

The Anti-Bullying Policy is compliant with the following:

- The Education and Inspections Act (2006)
- The Education (independent school standards) regulations 2014
- The Equalities Act (2010)
- The Education Act (2011)
- The Ofsted School Inspection Handbook (2016)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE Statutory Guidance (2024)
- SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years (2014)
- Preventing and Tackling Bullying: Advice for School Leaders, Staff and Governing Bodies (2014)

This policy should be read in conjunction with other UTC policies:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Peer on Peer Abuse Policy
- SEND Policy
- Exclusions Policy

## **Aims**

The Anti-Bullying Policy aims to:

- Develop a caring and supportive environment where all students feel safe;
- Enable all members of the UTC community to openly talk about bullying -what it is, how it affects the UTC and what can be done to address it;
- Ensure that all students are aware of their rights and responsibilities and know how to seek support;
- Implement a policy which clearly states what actions will be taken to deal with bullying behaviour;
- Emphasise respect and tolerance for all individuals;
- Teach students skills which will build self-esteem and empower them to take responsibility for themselves and give them the opportunity to practise these skills;
- Deal with all reported and observed incidences of bullying in accordance with this policy;
- Ensure that students feel safe at all times;
- Create a culture which does not tolerate any form of bullying;

- Provide a pastoral structure suitable for monitoring and following up incidents of bullying;
- Survey students regularly to monitor the level of bullying within the UTC.

## **Definition of Bullying**

Bullying may be defined as ‘deliberately hurtful behaviour usually repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those bullied to defend themselves’. It can take many forms, but the three main types are physical, verbal and emotional. The use of mobile phones, email and web-based chat-rooms has led to the rise of cyber-bullying, which may be defined as the ‘sending or posting of harmful or cruel text or images using the internet or other digital communication devices.

Bullying can take different forms. The following are examples of different types of bullying behaviour:

- Physical aggression such as hitting, kicking, pushing or tripping;
- Interference with another’s property, causing deliberate damage or theft to that property;
- Verbal, for example, through racist, homophobic or sectarian remarks, threats, name calling or demeaning comments, gender re-assignment;
- Emotional hurt, through isolating or excluding an individual from the activities and social acceptance of his/her peer group or through passing notes or spreading rumours;
- Intimidation and harassment, for example, through pressure from members of a group against an individual (child on childbullying) so that s/he feels uneasy or frightened;
- Cyber-bullying by an individual or groups (child on child), for example, through the use of mobile phone cameras, emails, chat rooms, instant messaging and websites.

## **The UTC Community**

Each member of the UTC community has a role to play in helping to prevent bullying and in creating an atmosphere in which it is not allowed to develop.

At the UTC, action will be taken to prevent bullying in the following ways by:

- Promoting and maintaining an ethos that encourages consideration and respect for others and which is firmly based on the values of UTC;
- Ensuring that each member of the UTC community- students, staff, parents/carers, employers, outside agencies take seriously suspected cases of bullying and peer on peer abuse and not accepting such actions as ‘banter’ or ‘It’s only boys being boys’ and act in accordance with the procedures in this policy and the Child on child Abuse Policy
- Educating students about the boundaries of appropriate behaviour towards others and addressing bullying and related issues through PSHCE, Citizenship, peer mentoring and assembly programmes;
- Ensuring effective supervision of locations within the UTC where bullying is likely to occur and highlighting to students, with the support of parents / carers, the importance of appropriate behaviour when travelling to and from the UTC;
- Liaising with other support agencies as appropriate;

- Encouraging a strong sense of belonging to the UTC through participation in enrichment activities;
- Using Student Voice and questionnaires as regular opportunities to gauge students' own perceptions of the effectiveness of anti-bullying strategies in the UTC;
- Having clear procedures for responding to bullying, which are kept under regular review.

## **The Responsibilities of UTC Staff**

All staff at the UTC will:

- Foster students' self-esteem, self-respect and respect for others;
- Demonstrate by example the high standards of personal and social behaviour expected of all students;
- Discuss bullying with all classes, so that every student learns about the damage it causes to both the individual who is bullied and to the bully and the importance of telling a teacher or PLM about bullying when it happens;

Challenge any and all forms of child on child abuse and not accept it as 'banter' or 'It's only boys being boys' and act in accordance with procedures in this policy and the Child on Child Abuse Policy;

- Be alert to signs of distress and other possible indications of bullying, whether from an individual or group (child-on-child bullying);
- Listen to students who have been bullied, take what they say seriously and act to support and protect them;
- Report suspected cases of bullying to the relevant Form Teacher or Head of Year in the first instance;
- Follow up any complaint by a parent/carer about bullying, and report back promptly and fully on the action which has been taken;
- Deal with observed instances of bullying promptly and effectively, in accordance with agreed procedures.

## **The Responsibilities of Students**

All students of the UTC are expected to:

- Refrain from becoming involved in any kind of bullying, even at the risk of incurring temporary unpopularity;
- Refrain from any kind of bullying as part of a group, as this constitutes peer-to-peer bullying;
- Intervene to protect the student who is being bullied, unless it is unsafe to do so;
- Report to a member of staff any witnessed or suspected instances of bullying, to dispel any climate of secrecy and help to prevent further instances.

Anyone who becomes the target of bullies should:

- Not suffer in silence, but have the courage to speak out, to put an end to their own suffering and that of other potential targets.

## **The Responsibilities of Parents/Carers**

Parents/carers are asked to support their children and the UTC by:

- Watching for signs of distress or unusual behaviour in their children, which might be evidence of bullying;
- Advising their child to report any bullying from an individual or group to their Form Tutor or relevant Head of Year and explain the implications of allowing the bullying to continue unchecked, for themselves and for other students;
- Advising their children not to retaliate violently to any forms of bullying;
- Being sympathetic and supportive towards their children, and reassuring them that appropriate action will be taken;
- Keeping a written record of any reported instances of bullying;
- Informing the UTC of any suspected bullying, even if their child is not involved;
- Co-operating with the UTC if their children are accused of bullying, in order to try to ascertain the truth;
- Pointing out the implications of bullying, both for the children who are bullied and for the bullies themselves.

## **The Responsibilities of All**

Everyone should:

Work together to combat and, hopefully in time, to eradicate bullying and peer on peer abuse.

## **Signs and Symptoms**

The following signs MAY suggest that a student has been bullied and that the situation warrants investigation:

- Unwillingness to attend the UTC/truancy, especially atypical patterns of 'illness'/truancy;
- Anxiety about travelling to and from the UTC / avoiding regular travelling times;
- Underachievement;
- Loss of concentration/ enthusiasm/ interest in the UTC / changed behaviour;
- Repeated non-specific reasons for GP visits – headache / stomach ache;
- Unexplained changes in mood especially before returning to the UTC after holidays / weekends;
- Possessions which are damaged or 'go missing';
- Requests are made for money or money begins to go missing (to pay the bully);
- Physical signs of anxiety – stammering / nightmares / sleep difficulty / loss of appetite / nausea / withdrawal;
- Physical bruising / torn clothes.
- Loss of self-esteem / confidence / mood swings;
- Reluctant to say anything is wrong;
- Is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone/device;
- Is nervous and jumpy when a cyber-message is received;
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above.

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and will be investigated.

## **Procedures for Dealing with Bullying**

In each case of bullying, the priority should be that the bullied individual feels supported and that the individual/s responsible for the bullying are made aware that their behaviour is unacceptable and the bullying stops.

The precise action for dealing with an incident will vary. However, the following broad guidelines apply:

- Instances of bullying or suspicion of bullying by an individual or group of students should be reported by students, parents / carers or UTC employees to the Form Tutor in the first instance;
- A record will be made of every report;
- The Form Tutor will investigate, in liaison with the Head of House and or Head of Key Stage 4 or 5 as appropriate. The Assistant Principal (Pastoral) will also be involved as necessary;
- Students directly involved will be asked to provide a signed and dated written account of the incident;
- All students involved in the alleged incident will be reminded that any form of discrimination and retaliation against an individual who reports or assists in the investigation of an act of bullying is strictly prohibited and will be taken very seriously by the College;
- Statements (dated and signed) will also be taken from any witness/es to the incident (s);
- Parents / carers of all students will be contacted promptly;
- If necessary, referrals to outside agencies will be made in accordance with procedures;
- The student who has/is being bullied will be given practical advice and support;
- An appropriate response will be made, and recorded, with regard to the individual/s responsible;
- The Principal or nominated representative, will notify the appropriate law enforcement agency where they believe that any acts of bullying constitute criminal conduct.
- The situation will be monitored and reviewed after one month by the Head of Key Stage 4 or 5 as appropriate, to ensure the welfare of all students involved.

## **Response to Bullying**

The UTC will make use of a range of responses in dealing with incidents of bullying. The response(s) to be used will depend upon the severity and persistence of the bullying being perpetrated. It is intended that the person(s) responsible will learn from what has happened and change his/her behaviour. Education and raising awareness are effective ways of challenging bullying and encouraging individual students to take responsibility for their own actions. This may include the student's involvement in a programme of mentoring, restorative justice, counselling, community service or referral to an outside

agency. Teaching group activities, themes of the week and assemblies may also be used for this purpose.

In addition, sanctions, in line with the Behaviour Policy, include:



- Verbal reprimand from a teacher, Form Teacher, Head of House, Head of Key Stage 4 or 5, Assistant Principal;
- Verbal and/or written apology;
- Internal exclusion;
- Fixed Term exclusion;
- Permanent exclusion.

### **Documentation and Record Keeping**

All reports of bullying will be recorded on SIMS. This data will be used to:

- Manage individual cases effectively;
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of strategies;
- Celebrate the anti-bullying work of the College;
- Demonstrate defensible decision-making in the event of complaints being made;
- Engage and inform multi-agency teams as necessary;
- A log of racist and homophobic incidents will be kept separately and reported to the relevant authority;
- A log will be kept of the alleged bully and victim to ensure repeat victims/offenders can be appropriately supported;
- Report to the Governing Body in order for them to evaluate the anti-bullying work of the College;
- Include relevant data in the College Self Evaluation Form (SEF).

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Principal will report instances of bullying in his/her report to the Governing Body.

The Governing Body and Principal will monitor the operation and effectiveness of the Anti-Bullying Policy.

### **CPD/Training**

All staff of the UTC are required to complete annual training, recorded in the Single Central Record (SCR), on safeguarding and child protection and other such courses deemed essential by the Principal and SLT in response to College-specific issues, local or national issues.

# **APPENDIX 1**

## **Anti-Bullying – Information for Parents/Carers**

### **What is bullying?**

Bullying is if individuals or groups are:

- Calling your child names;
- Threatening him/her;
- Pressuring your child to give someone money or possessions;
- Hitting your child;
- Damaging your child's possessions;
- Spreading rumours about your child or your family;
- Using text, email or web space to write or say hurtful things about your child (cyber bullying).

It is also bullying if your child feels hurt because of things said about their ethnic background, religious faith, gender, sexuality, disability, special educational need, appearance or specific issues in your family.

### **Anti-bullying advice to Parents / Carers**

- A great deal of bullying is CYBER-BULLYING. Please regularly monitor your child's use of texting, Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites. Access to these is out of the schools control when your child is not in school
- TALK to your child on a regular basis, so any problem is easier to share
- LISTEN to what they say
- ENCOURAGE your child to feel good about themselves, realising that we are all different and equally important
- If you believe your child is being bullied, or is a bully, talk to other adults at home or at school and explore the options. **DON'T STAY SILENT**
- If your child is a victim assure them that it is not their fault and that you are going to do something to help
- Be realistic in your expectations, sometimes on-going problems can take time to resolve
- TRY to be co-operative with our school and not be aggressive. Without a good working relationship between parents and the school the situation could deteriorate, which won't help you or them
- ALWAYS remember that children can't solve bullying on their own. They NEED the support of parents/carers and our school

### **What should you do if your child is being bullied?**

You should contact your child's Form Tutor or the relevant Head of Year, Attendance and Welfare Officer as soon as possible to explain your concerns. It would be most helpful if you could ensure you have as many details as possible, including dates, places and names.

The Form Tutor or the relevant Head of Year will investigate your concerns and will aim to communicate their findings to you within 24 hours of your original contact.

### **What will the UTC do?**

The UTC does not tolerate bullying and will respond in the following ways:

- Work to make sure that the student being bullied is safe;
- Work to stop the bullying from happening again;
- Provide support to the student being bullied;
- Take actions to ensure that the person doing the bullying learns not to harm others.

### **What to do if you feel the situation has not been resolved appropriately**

If you feel your concerns are not being addressed appropriately by the Form Tutor or the relevant Head of Year you should:

- Contact the Assistant Principal (Pastoral) to explain your continued concerns;
- If you are still concerned you should make an appointment to meet the Principal to discuss your concerns;
- If you remain unhappy with the response from all staff above, you should put your concerns in writing to the Chair of the Governing Body.

Parents/carers can contact Parentline Plus (0808 800 2222) for further advice on helping their child to deal with bullying. Parentline Plus offers a 24-hour confidential and free line for parents/carers.

## **Appendix 2**

### **Anti-Bullying - Information for Students**

#### **What is it bullying?**

Bullying is if you feel hurt because individuals or groups are:

- Calling you names;
- Threatening you;
- Pressuring you to give someone money or possessions;
- Hitting you;
- Damaging your possessions;
- Spreading rumours about you or your family;
- Using text, email or web space to write or say hurtful things (cyber bullying).

It is bullying if you feel hurt because of things said about your ethnic background, religious faith, gender, sexuality, disability, special educational need, appearance or issues in your family.

#### **What will the UTC do?**

The UTC does not tolerate bullying and will respond in the following ways:

- Work to make sure that the student being bullied is safe;
- Work to stop the bullying from happening again;
- Provide support to the student being bullied;
- Take actions to ensure that the person doing the bullying learns not to harm others.

#### **What should you do?**

Talk to someone you trust and get them to help you take the right steps to stop the bullying.

If you feel you are being bullied:

- Try to stay calm and look as confident as you can;
- Be firm and clear — look them in the eye and tell them to stop;
- Get away from the situation as quickly as possible;
- If the bullying is being done on-line, immediately share with a trusted adult;
- If you are in College, tell any teacher or a PLM what has happened straight away;
- If you are outside College tell an adult or, if you do not feel comfortable telling an adult, tell a friend who can speak to an adult on your behalf.

If you have been bullied:

- Tell your Form Tutor, Head of Year, Attendance and Welfare Officer, Head of Key Stage 4 or 5 or another adult at the UTC;
- Tell your parents/carers and ask them to contact the College to explain your concerns;

- If you are afraid/reluctant to tell your Form Tutor, Head of Key Stage 4 or 5 or another adult at the UTC on your own, ask a friend to go with you;
- If you feel that the adult you have spoken to has not acted, tell another adult at the UTC (ideally this should be the Assistant Principal (Pastoral);
- If you still feel the situation is not being dealt with talk to the Principal;
- **Don't blame yourself for what has happened.**

When you are talking to an adult about bullying be clear about:

- What has happened to you;
- How often it has happened;
- Who was involved;
- Who saw what was happening;
- Where it happened;
- What you have done about it already.

## APPENDIX 3

### Organisations which provide advice and support

If you find it difficult to talk to anyone at the UTC or at home you can also contact:

#### **Child Line**

ChildLine Offers a free, 24-hour helpline and counselling service for children in distress or danger. Tel **free phone** 0800 1111 [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

[\*\*Bullying Online\*\*](#) for parents/carers whose children are being bullied and who don't know what to do. Contains advice for both children being bullied and their parents.

**Families Against Bullying** at <http://pages.hotbot.com/family/famab/> is a voluntary non-profit making organisation providing free confidential advice and support to targets of school bullying and their families.

[\*\*Bully Free Zone\*\*](#) is a local voluntary agency, working in Bolton and Manchester (UK) who offer advice and information to children, families etc about bullying and also work in local schools to set up peer support schemes to tackle bullying and related issues.