

ANTI-BULLYING CHARTER

(The fundamental rules)

1. The school's philosophy

The members of the European School of Strasbourg consider that it is a right for everyone to feel safe at school and to be protected from humiliation or aggression.

We make every effort to guarantee a friendly and safe environment for the whole school community so that the students may learn in a harmonious atmosphere. Bullying is unacceptable. Anyone who feels that they are victims of bullying has the right to be protected.

This Charter is part of the anti-bullying policy of the EES and is integrated in the school rules.

2. Definition of "bullying"

Bullying is a series of small aggressions that take place over a long period of time and from which victims are unable to defend themselves.

Characteristics:

- The repetition of negative actions that happen over a long period of time.
- The strength between the victim and his/her aggressor is disproportionate.
- The willingness to harm is clear.

Types of bullying

- Making fun, name-calling, spreading rumours, hitting, insulting, making threats, leaving someone out on purpose
- Remarks and images sent by mobile phone and through social media (cyberbullying)

Persons concerned:

- The victim(s), the bully (bullies), witness(es), those who do nothing, the accomplices (whether voluntary or not).
- Witnesses who do not intervene are accomplices.

Signs of bullying:

Declining grades at school, isolation, avoidance of social situations, difficulty sleeping, loss of appetite, irritability, sensitivity, reduced self-esteem, aggressivity, absenteeism.

Sanctions:

Sanctions will be adapted to the gravity of the case and determined in consultation with school management and teaching staff. Bullying is also punishable by law.

3. The school environment

Every adult in the school is in a position of authority and we expect them to be positive role models: respectful in their behaviour and language.

Everyone should actively guarantee a pleasant school environment for the pupils. Strict limits and consequences are foreseen by the school community in the face of unacceptable attitudes.

4. A global policy of prevention within the European School of Strasbourg

The school climate must be based on values of tolerance and respect, which should be apparent through school activities.

Staff responsible for the children very regularly coordinate preventive action against school violence and develop educational and teaching tools.

For example:

- Literature, albums, role-playing, discussions on the theme of school violence within the 'School Life' lessons, exchanges during the meetings of the children's delegates at the primary school and the student's committee meetings in secondary school.
- Presentations from specialists (cyberbullying, sex education, etc)
- Information to parents, through the school internal authorities, conferences, meetings, discussion groups (for students, teachers and parents)
- Specific training for teachers, lists of available resources (internet and documents)
- An annual day devoted to "Living Together"
- Communal outings, parties, intersection projects, cultural and sporting events contributing to developing a feeling of belonging and creating a feeling of unity between the pupils.
- Partnership and collaboration with the teachers of ethics and religion
- Concrete actions will be reported during the institutional meetings: 'preventing school violence' will regularly be an agenda item of the Education Council and the Student Committee;

5. The role of parents

It is expected that parents talk to their children about their school day. It is important that parents show a genuine interest in the daily events of the school.

Children need advice and to be taught values: they need to hear that violence and/or verbal abuse is not a way to resolve problems, that it is essential to respect others and to have a friendly, tolerant and unified attitude.

If parents suspect that their child is a victim of bullying or violence at school, they should immediately contact the class teacher and school management.

Parents must be ready to accept that their child may be the aggressor in a situation.

**PREVENTION OF AND ACTION AGAINST SCHOOL
VIOLENCE CONCERN EVERYONE**