



★ SCHOOL NOW ! ★

SATSUKI GAKUEN NEWS

Important message to students and family members.

If you or your family member has tested positive for Covid-19 please contact school immediately.
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Issue 6

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About bullying prevention.

The most important goal of school education is to educate children's hearts, which means to teach them to respect each other and allow children to lead a safe and peaceful school life. However, as our students grow up, they may unintentionally hurt their friends and classmates. Sometimes the problem can get bigger and turn into bullying. If that happens, we want you to be sure that the school staff will make every effort to deal with the situation. We will give full support and all protection needed to the victims of bullying and provide the necessary guidance to the perpetrators of bullying in order to prevent further issues. We want to make sure the students understand our "zero tolerance to bullying" policy. Feelings of the victims will be given full priority, because we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our students.

SATSUKI GAKUEN ANTI-BULLYING POLICY



1. Definition of bullying

The term "bullying" as used in this Act means acts exerting a psychological or physical influence on a child, etc. that are committed by another child, etc. who attends the same school or otherwise has a certain personal relationship with the victimized child, etc. (including acts committed via the internet) and due to which the victimized child, etc. suffers mental or physical pain.(Article 2 of the Act for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Bullying (September 28, 2013))

In light of the fact that bullying is an issue relating to all children, measures for the prevention of bullying should aim to eliminate bullying irrespective of whether it happens in or outside school so that all children can engage in learning and other activities without worries.

Measures for the prevention of bullying should aim to deepen understanding of children concerning bullying-related problems, including mental and physical influence of bullying on children in order to ensure that no children will commit bullying or overlook bullying targeting other children in spite of being aware of it.(Article 3 of the Act for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Bullying (September 28, 2013))



Actual examples of bullying include:

- mocking and teasing, threatening and slandering, name calling, insulting
- ignoring, encouraging others to social exclude someone
- hitting and kicking disguised as playing
- severely beating, kicking or bumping someone
- stealing, extorting, hiding, throwing away, destroying or damaging money or property
- doing or forcing someone else to do something dangerous, embarrassing and/or humiliating
- cyberbullying (online bullying), which takes place over digital devices and electronic means, and includes abusive, false or hurtful texts, emails or posts, images or videos.

※ If the school finds that a bullying case should be processed as a criminal act (when there is a risk that physical or mental health, life or property of any child enrolled in the school can be seriously damaged), it makes a report to the jurisdictional police station immediately to seek appropriate assistance.

Note that the information about alleged bullying should be immediately shared with all the members of the Committee, rather than considered by specific school staff member, and the decision should be taken by the members of the Committee promptly and systematically.

2. Bullying prevention group

- (1) Name of the group: Problematic Behavior Countermeasures Committee
- (2) Members: school administrators (School Principal, Vice Principal or Assistant Principal), teachers of the grade where bullying has occurred, students' support coordinators, human rights educator, life guidance tutor, class prefect (head of the class, Head Boy, Head Girl etc.), school nurse, school social worker, school counselor.

3. Measures for prevention and early detection of bullying

- Regularly examine and renew, if necessary, the definition and criteria for bullying. Implement appropriate response to bullying.
- Share the information about changes in behavior and activities of students with the members of the school staff.
- Give all the students an opportunity to play an active role during school classes and events.
- Monitoring actual situation through regular questionnaires and daily observations. Process collected information and share it among all the members of the school staff.
- Watch over children and students in cooperation with parents/guardians and community.
- Establish an educational counseling service and provide information about it to the students through the school counseling system and school newsletters.
- Encourage students to develop independent thinking and the ability to take decisions and act on their own in elementary and junior high school council meetings.

MEASURES AGAINST BULLYING

1. Basic idea

The most effective way to prevent recurrence of bullying episodes is to give full priority to the care of students who have been bullied, as well as to make every effort to understand the reasons and background of the students who have been involved in bullying. Therefore the essential step is to make sure that the bully realizes the gravity of the situation and understands all the consequences of his/her actions. The bully should be receiving continuous guidance, so that he/she could reflect on his/her behavior and apologize to the victim in a genuine manner.

2. School response when a bullying-related case is found or reported.

When bullying is suspected (even if it seems insignificant), the fact of it must be investigated and accurately followed from the early stage. Detected bullying-like behavior (such as pranks or name-calling while playing), should be stopped by the school staff immediately. The school staff is expected to discuss the fact of alleged bullying with student's guardian, listen to the guardian's concerns sympathetically and then report the incident. At the same time, the school should work with students – both victims and witnesses of alleged bullying – in order to ensure their safety. The information on bullying incident is not a subject to be considered by a specific school staff member. It should be immediately shared with the "Problematic Behavior Countermeasures Committee" so that the problem could be solved quickly and systematically.

If investigation and fact checks confirm the fact of bullying, the Committee members report to the Board of Education for further assistance.

If the bullying incident is recognized as a criminal act, the school must consult with the jurisdictional police station, in order to choose a proper response policy. If there is a risk of serious damage to the life, body or property of the student – the school immediately notifies the jurisdictional police station and request appropriate assistance.

3. Support for bullied students and their parents/guardians.

After promptly providing measures to stop bullying, the school performs evidence gathering and fact checks through interviewing the students, who allegedly became victims of bullying, and bullying witnesses. Interviews should be arranged individually for each student involved, including witnesses. After gathering enough information, the school immediately contacts parents/guardians of bullied students, asks for their cooperation and provides them with proper guidance and help.

At the same time school works with the students who are alleged to be perpetrators of bullying. It is necessary to make them understand that bullying can cause psychological damage, threaten life, health and property of the victim and is absolutely unacceptable. It is essential to ensure that bullies are aware of the responsibility and consequences, that follow bullying. It is also important to pay attention to the background of the bullying incident, taking into account the problems, that the student (accused of bullying) is facing, and circumstances of each case. This approach aims to support the safety and mental health of students involved in bullying, in order to provide healthy, friendly and safe environment for everyone. The school will perform consistent and reasonable guidance to the students, involving multiple school staff members and school counselors, with the final goal to stop bullying and prevent its recurrence.

4. Working with groups where bullying occurred.



The school must educate students to understand, that the actions of the group where bullying episode has occurred, can make a big difference to the situation's outcome. Even if you don't take part in bullying, but see it and walk away, or pretend not to see it, you are making it worse. These actions cause more pain to the victim of bullying, making him/her feel lonely and isolated. It is essential to educate the students, that bystanders can change a lot. If you witness bullying episode– report it directly to your teacher (or other school staff). Also give sympathy and support to the person being bullied. Sometimes witnesses and bystanders are afraid to report the bullying incidents because they are worried that they may be harmed by the bullies in revenge. The school has to make sure, that the students understand, that all staff members have zero tolerance to bullying and will do everything to support and protect the witnesses who report the bullying case. So, when you see bullying – report it to the school staff.

5. Response to cyberbullying.

In case of cyberbullying, first, the school has to collect evidence of the bullying incident. It can be done by printing out offensive article, message or post, copying or downloading it, and saving it to electronic device. Then the school should call a meeting to discuss the incident and work out solutions and measures to introduce in this situation.

The school should interview students, and take necessary measures such as holding the investigation and providing care to students affected by the problem.

Also, information ethics training should be carried out.

The offensive article or post therefore should be deleted and psychological help and assistance should be provided to the student who became victim of cyberbullying and also to his/her parents/legal guardians. Also, if necessary, the school should report and/or apply for assistance to Human Rights Protection Department of Osaka Legal Affairs Bureau or/and jurisdictional police station.