**OBIYE ACADEMY**

**BULLYING POLICY**

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**BULLYING POLICY**

**Our** **Mission**:

To provide all round education in the unique Obiye style; using a range of innovative methods, thereby producing only the best of learners.

To enable us achieve these, we are committed to creating and sustaining an environment where students are encouraged to learn and meet their academic goals. However, we cannot achieve our mission and objectives if learners do not feel at home because of the ugly trend rearing its head in many institutions of learning – bullying. By its highly disruptive nature, bullying interferes with both a student’s ability to learn and a school’s ability to achieve its objectives.

At Obiye Academy, the staff, students, parents and the entire school community are strong advocates of positive behaviour: respect for other people and their opinions, setting enviable examples within and outside the school, and zero tolerance to bullying.

Bullying is considered as any gesture expressed verbally, through written language, or physically that degrades a person. Thus, bullying can be physical, verbal, emotional, and cyber (which includes email, mobile phones, social media etc. This includes, but is not limited to, a person’s race, religion, colour, gender, sexual orientation, disability, nationality, or any other unique characteristic.

This behaviour will be considered bullying regardless of where it takes place: on or off school premises, at any school function, or in a school vehicle.

Any student who chooses to participate in bullying will be met with swift and severe **sanctions**. However, each case will be examined on a case-by-case basis and could vary based on several factors including age, nature of the problem, past history, administrative provisions and prohibitions, Nigeria's legal positions, etc.

The school disciplinary practices and procedures include strategies to:

* Create an environment that makes it impossible for bullying or other negative behaviour to thrive,
* correct the behaviour,
* prevent it from happening again, and
* protect the bullying victim from further harm.

**DEALING WITH A BULLY**

**WHAT DO I DO AS AN OBIYE STUDENT?**

***Verbal/Emotional Bullying*** – Take these 3 steps in the following order:

1. **STOP** – Take a deep breath. Look the bully directly in the eye.
2. **TALK** – Address the bully by name……followed by “I am not a………(insert whatever name they called you). *Shout so everyone around or in the room will hear you.*
3. **WALK** – Turn around and walk away from the situation and find the closest staff – academic or non-academic to report the incident to.

***Physical Bullying*** – If you feel like you are about to be physically bullied by another student, immediately report it to a staff. Walk away from the situation as quickly as possible. Avoid being confrontational. If possible, find a friend nearby because bullies often will not take on more than one student at a time.

***Cyber Bullying*** – Keep a copy of any text, email, etc in which you feel like you are being bullied. Do not delete it. Show it to an adult as soon as possible.

**OBSERVATION OF BULLYING AND STEPS TO TAKE**

Any student who observes another student being bullied should ***immediately take action to stop that student from being bullied.*** Those actions may include:

1. Telling the bully to leave the student alone.
2. Taking the bullied victim by the hand and lead them away.
3. Report it immediately to a staff.

Any student who observes a bullying incident and fails to intervene in at least one of the three manners listed above are subject to disciplinary action.

**ANTI-BULLYING AGREEMENT**

We, the students of Obiye Academy believe that everybody should enjoy school equally by feeling safe, secure, and accepted regardless of colour, race, gender, popularity, athletic ability, intelligence, and/or religious preference.

Bullying can be, but is not limited to: pushing, shoving, hitting, spitting, name calling, picking on, making fun of, laughing at, and/or excluding someone or several people. It includes “deals” between a senior student and a junior student, eating the food/meat/snacks of a junior student by a senior student or others.

Bullying causes pain and stress to victims and is never justified or excusable as “kids being kids,” “just teasing” or any other excuse. The victim is never responsible for being a target of bullying.

I, as a student of Obiye Academy – High School recognize all these and hereby agree to join together and put an end to bullying.

By signing this pledge, I agree to:

1. Recognise and value students’ differences and treat others with respect.
2. Not become involved in bullying incidents or be a bully.
3. Be aware of the School’s policies and support system with regard to bullying.
4. Acknowledge that whether I am being a bully or see someone being bullied, if I do not report or stop the bullying, I am guilty of supporting bullying.
5. Be alert in places around the school where there is less adult supervision and bullying is more likely to occur.
6. Support students who have been or are subject to bullying.
7. Work with other students, teachers, and administrators to help the school deal with bullying effectively if it should occur.
8. Be a good role model by upholding my pledge in supporting zero tolerance toward bullying.

Student’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Principal’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_