

LOUTH OLD BOYS FC

Est: 1977



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Statement of Intent

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our players so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our Club. If bullying does occur, all players should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a TELLING Club. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- . Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- . Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- . Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- . Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- . Homophobic because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- . Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- . Cyber All areas of internet and social media ,such as email & internet chat room misuse

Mobile threats by text messaging & calls

Misuse of associated technology , i.e. camera & video facilities

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying and football clubs are no exception.

Objectives of this Policy

- . All Staff, Managers and Coaches, players and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- . All Staff, Managers and Coaches, players and parents should know what the Club policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- . All players and parents should know what the Club policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- . As a Club we take bullying seriously. Players and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- . Bullying will not be tolerated.

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- . is frightened of walking to or from school / sport
- . doesn't want to go on the school / public bus
- . begs to be driven to school / sport
- . changes their usual routine
- . is unwilling to go to school (school phobic) or sports events
- . begins to truant
- . becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- . starts stammering
- . attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- . cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- . feels ill in the morning
- . begins to do poorly in school work
- . comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- . has possessions which are damaged or " go missing"
- . asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- . has dinner or other monies continually "lost"
- . has unexplained cuts or bruises

- . comes home starving (money / lunch has been stolen)
- . becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- . is bullying other children or siblings
- . stops eating
- . is frightened to say what's wrong
- . gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- . is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- . is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received

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