

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

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Bullying is a form of dangerous and disrespectful behavior that will not be permitted or tolerated. HMS recognizes that students should have a safe, orderly, civil and positive learning environment and that bullying has no place and will not be tolerated at school. The Hockessin Montessori School defines bullying as:

Bullying: the repeated use by one or more students of a written, verbal, or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a target that:

- Causes physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target's property;
- Places the target in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself or of damage to his or her property;
- Creates a hostile environment at school for the targeted student;
- Infringes on the rights of the targeted student at school; or
- Materially or substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of the School.

Cyberbullying: Cyberbullying is bullying through the use of technology or electronic devices such as telephones, cell phones, computers, fax machines, and the Internet. It includes but is not limited to: email, instant messages, text messages, and Internet postings whether on a webpage, in a blog, or otherwise.

Hostile Environment: A hostile environment is a situation in which bullying causes the school environment to be permeated with intimidation, ridicule, or insult that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of a student's education.

Retaliation: Retaliation is any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment directed against a student who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses bullying, or has reliable information about bullying.

Target: The individual against whom bullying, cyberbullying or retaliation has been perpetrated.

Reported Bullying: If you feel a child is being bullied, please notify school personnel immediately. You will then meet with your child's teacher, the Head of School, and the Director of Student Services to review your concerns before the school begins our investigation.