



Walderslade Girls' School

Mrs L Hardie, BA (Hons), NPQH
Headteacher

Bradfields Avenue, Chatham, Kent, ME5 0LE

Tel: 01634 861596

Email: wgsoffice@sflt.org.uk

www.sflt.org.uk/waldersladegirls

10th November 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Over 80% of schools across the country mark Anti-Bullying Week. And we, of course, are one of them. This year, even more so than others, we are planning to make Anti-Bullying Week a huge event within Walderslade Girls' School and to use the time to implement positive changes.

As a school, we acknowledge we have bullying issues. Many schools do. And we are currently doing everything we can to improve our policies and ensure our students, staff, parents, carers and wider communities feel more confident about how bullying issues are dealt with and managed.

Please find attached our plans to mark Anti-Bullying Week, starting on Monday and some information that might be of interest to you.

Monday 14th November: Student Survey and Odd-Socks Day

Odd Socks Day is just a fun way to express an anti-bullying message and celebrate our *differences and individuality*. Since 2017, lots of people: (schools, people in the workplace, celebrities etc) have taken part. Everybody wears odd socks. It's as simple as that. So, on Monday, we will invite all students, staff and parents to wear odd socks.

On this day, all students will also have special assemblies ran by our Senior Leadership Team. These assemblies will take them through an important 'Student Voice' survey. This survey is very much focused on bullying, their emotional wellbeing, and how valued and supported they feel at school. There are about 15 questions on this survey and we will use the responses from this survey to make positive changes.

Tutor Time Activities

This week, students will also be reviewing our anti-bullying policy and giving us their thoughts, ideas and suggestions. Form Tutors will be showing them where to find the policy (it's on the school website: <https://sflt.org.uk/waldersladegirls/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2022/11/Anti-bullying-Policy-v1.1-3.pdf>) and then helping them discuss it before coming up with possible suggestions that might improve or clarify the policy.

As parents/carers, we invite you to also read through our policy and send in any ideas, comments or suggestions you have.

The Senior Leadership Team will be considering all student and parent views when the policy is reviewed later this term.

Where to Go for Help

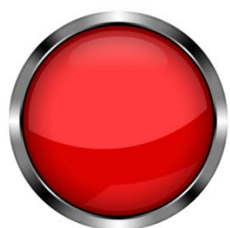
We want to ensure that you and your children know how to report bullying at school and who is here to help. So, Form Tutors will be explaining this to their students. In the first instance contact should be made with the child's Form Tutor. Students and parents/carers can also reach out to our Pastoral



Staff and to Heads of Year (these people will be made clear to the students, just in case they aren't already).

We have been researching Bullying recently and there are reports that indicate an alarming number of students do not feel comfortable speaking to an adult about their bullying issues. So, we are also, currently in the process of appointing 'Anti Bullying Ambassadors' in every Year Group. More on our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors later on in this email.

Students will be reminded of the '**RED BUTTON**' on the school website. This is another way to alert us of concerns (including bullying concerns). And we encourage you to use it if your child or any child known to you at Walderslade Girls' School is causing you any concern (bullying, safeguarding or otherwise). The red button is available on the front page of the school website (scroll down to find it):



Need to report a concern?

Click the Red Button

Year Group Assemblies

Anti-Bullying Assemblies are already in the calendar for every Year group next week.

Our staff will be exploring **what bullying is, the different types of bullying and how to identify if one of your friends or someone you know is being bullied.** We will also be promoting empathy and Skills for Life value 'Care' and reminding students of where to go for help.

Lessons

All week, we will have anti-bullying themed lessons in curriculum subjects so we can ensure the anti-bullying message is coming from every angle. We are aiming to have it mentioned and strongly reinforced every day, in every lesson from every teacher.

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

In order to encourage children to speak up and reach out, we are going to be building a team of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors (ABAs). Our ABAs will be student representatives from every Year Group. They will be checked for suitability and trained before they are available to support the anti-bullying message across the school. ABAs will be rewarded and valued by all students and staff and we will celebrate their roles with due rewards.

Training these students up will take a little time as we want to get it right, but we will start taking applications for ABA volunteers next week. We hope to have a lot of interest as we have so many positive students in our school who are nurturing, kind and emotionally intelligent. We can't wait to include them in our strong anti-bullying messages.

Social Media

All of this will be shared all week on the social media. So please look out on our Facebook and/or Twitter pages and engage positively with our message. As, we all know, that we are far stronger together and this message will come across to our students in a much more effective way if it's coming from home and school simultaneously.



Reaching out to you: our Parents and Carers

Finally, as parents/carers, this resource might be of interest to you:
<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/attachments/Anti-Bullying%20Week%202022%20-%20Parent%20Pack.pdf>

It outlines:

- How to speak to your children about bullying.
- Your rights.
- How to work with the school if you feel bullying is an issue for your children.
- Other places you can go to for help.

Our Headteacher, Mrs Hardie met with some parents last term regarding how, as a school and a community, we can work against Bullying; Mrs Hardie will be having another meeting soon and if you would like to attend, you are welcome to email Mrs Hardie for an invitation at halel001@sfft.org.uk. We would very much welcome your input and support.

We are so grateful to you, our parents and carers for your relentless positivity and support of Walderslade Girls' School. We thank you in advance for your support and engagement during Anti-Bullying Week.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for other things we could do to promote an Anti-Bullying message during Anti-Bullying Week, feel free to email me.

Thank you,

Ms L Neave

Associate Assistant Headteacher

