

At Alam Kidz School, we stand firmly against all forms of bullying and are committed to creating a safe and respectful environment for every student. We believe that a strong sense of community, built on kindness, empathy, and cooperation, is essential for students to thrive both academically and personally. Being a PYP candidate school, we firmly believe in and actively practice the values and principles of the IB curriculum. This document outlines the approaches taken to address bullying according to the PYP framework.

Bullying in a PYP school:

In the Primary Years Programme (PYP), bullying is understood as any repetitive, intentional behavior where one or more individuals use power or strength to harm, intimidate, or manipulate another individual. This behavior can be physical, verbal, emotional, or even cyber in nature, impacting the well-being and learning of the targeted individual.

Criteria for bullying in the PYP may include:

- **Intentional harm:** The behavior is purposeful, not accidental, and is meant to cause distress or harm to another student.
- **Repetition:** The behavior occurs more than once, making it a pattern rather than an isolated incident.
- **Imbalance of power:** There is a perceived or real power differential, where the student engaging in the bullying has more social, physical, or emotional power over the target.
- **Impact on well-being:** The targeted student experiences emotional, physical, or psychological harm, leading to a negative effect on their learning and school experience.

In line with PYP's **learner profile attributes** (such as being caring, principled, and respectful), our school aims to create a supportive, inclusive environment where bullying is addressed through education, intervention, and promoting positive relationships.

Strategies to Handle Bullying:

At Alam Kidz School, we implement proactive strategies to reduce and prevent bullying. Below are some of the strategies we implement at school.

1. Positive School Culture

- **Foster the Learner Profile:** We regularly emphasize the PYP learner profile attributes (e.g., being caring, principled, open-minded) in daily activities and discussions.
- **Essential Agreements:** We co-create classroom rules with students that emphasize respect, kindness, and inclusion.
- **Celebrate Diversity:** We hold activities, lessons, or events that celebrate diversity and encourage empathy toward others.

2. Education on Bullying and Empathy

- **Awareness:** We educate students about what constitutes bullying, its effects, and how to respond to it through morning assemblies, classroom discussions, and with the support of related books from the library.
- **Role-Playing:** We plan to use role-playing activities to teach students about standing up for themselves and others in a safe way. We can work together with visual art and performing arts for a more transdisciplinary approach.
- **Empathy Development:** We aim to embed empathy in our students by designing lessons that encourage collaboration, active listening and problem solving.

3. Open Communication

- **Safe Reporting Channels:** We have safe and confidential ways for students to report bullying incidents to the school staff, teachers, coordinators and principal.
- **Circle Time/Reflection:** We utilize morning time/circle time or class meetings to allow students to express their feelings and concerns in a supportive environment.
- **Regular Check-ins:** School principal, coordinators and teachers and staff conduct regular check-ins with students to monitor their well-being.

4. Conflict Resolution Skills

- **Problem-Solving Tools:** We aim to teach students conflict resolution strategies like using “I” statements, active listening, and peaceful problem-solving techniques.
- **Restorative Practices:** When incidents occur, we implement restorative practices to allow the bully and the victim to discuss the impact of the behavior and work toward healing relationships.

5. Involvement of the School Community

- **Staff Training:** We provide ongoing professional development for teachers and staff to recognize, prevent, and intervene in bullying situations.
- **Parental Involvement:** We engage parents by educating them about school policies on bullying, their role in supporting their child, and creating consistency between home and school behavior expectations. If bullying persists, we ask both parties' parents to meet at school to discuss solutions.

6. Intervention

- **Immediate Response:** Our teachers or staff may intervene immediately when bullying occurs by stopping the behavior, providing support to the victim, and addressing the bully's actions.
- **Counseling Support:** We provide counseling or emotional support to both the victim and the bully to address underlying issues. A licensed child psychologist is available for student counselling sessions at our school (external fees apply).
- **Consistent Consequences:** We enforce clear, consistent consequences for bullying behavior as outlined in the school's policy, while also focusing on behavior modification and learning.

7. Monitoring System

- **Behavioral Logs:** We keep records of bullying to track patterns and ensure follow-up through our anecdotal records and behavior logs.
- **Surveys and Feedback:** We periodically survey students about the school climate to assess if they feel safe and supported.

By integrating these strategies, we aim to create a respectful, inclusive environment that minimizes bullying and promotes the well-being of all students.

