

What is Bullying?

The Annette Perry Faculty and Staff take Bullying and Harassment very seriously! We expect everyone in the building to treat others with respect and we spend a lot of time talking about what that looks like and sounds like with our students. Character Development is just as much a priority as Academic Learning in ensuring the future success of our students.

The term "Bullying" has received a lot of media attention and among the general public. While it is a serious issue, a lot of times, what gets called "bullying" is more an act of harassment or an interaction with someone with poor manners and/or social skills. While that distinction may not mean much to you or the students, it is important that we make sure that you understand the difference.

The state requires us to investigate and document all incidences of bullying on campus. To do this, we have been given clarification of what exactly defines "Bullying." While we know that there are students that have poor social skills and/or poor anger management, not all of these students are "Bullies" by the state definition. For example, a student that calls my child dumb may not necessarily be an incident of bullying by state definition. Please know that it is still **NOT TOLERATED** at our school and will be addressed appropriately with the students involved. This particular incident may not be categorized as bullying if it does not meet the state definition but we will still investigate and provide appropriate consequences for any disrespectful behaviors that do not follow our expectations of students and/or follow the student Code of Conduct.

According to the State of Texas...

Bullying occurs when a student or group of students engages in

- ⦿ written or verbal expression,
- ⦿ expression through electronic means, or
- ⦿ physical conduct

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that occurs

- ⦿ on school property,
- ⦿ at a school-sponsored/school-related activity or,
- ⦿ in a vehicle operated by the District ,

and that:

- ⦿ has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property;

or

- ⦿ is sufficiently severe, persistent, and pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.

This conduct is considered bullying

if it:

- ⦿ exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator and the student victim through written or verbal expression or physical conduct;

and

- ⦿ interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of a school.

Again, please know that we do not tolerate disrespect or inappropriate behavior towards others (students or staff) on our campus. We want Perry to be a place that children look forward to attending and love to learn. If there is something going on that makes your child's learning experience uncomfortable or threatening, we WANT to know about it so we can address it with the parties involved. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to a FANTASTIC year with all of our students.

Christy Ruder, Perry Assistant Principal