

The following is taken directly from the Great Hearts Academy 2016 *Family Handbook*

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## **Policy on Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying of Students**

Archway Classical Academy prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying of students.

"Harassment, intimidation or bullying" means any gesture or written, verbal or physical act toward a student that takes place on school property or at a school-sponsored activity and that:

1. Is motivated by any actual or perceived characteristic of the student, such as race, ethnicity, religion, ancestry, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic status, or disability; and
2. (a) Harms the student or damages the student's property, or threatens personal harm or damage to his property; or (b) Insults, demeans or intimidates the student or a group of students in such a way as to substantially interfere with the student or students' educational or social activities at school or cause a substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

The school expects students to conduct themselves in keeping with their levels of development, maturity and demonstrated capabilities with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students and school staff, the educational purpose underlying all school activities, and the care of school facilities, and equipment.

The classroom teacher is the first person responsible for receiving complaints alleging violations of this policy. All school employees are required to report alleged violations of this policy to the Headmaster. All other members of the school community, including students, parents, volunteers and visitors, are encouraged to report any act that may be a violation of this policy. Oral reports also shall be considered official reports. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action may not be based solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

The classroom teacher, in consultation with the Headmaster, will determine whether an alleged act constitutes a violation of this policy. In so doing, the classroom teacher shall conduct a prompt and thorough investigation of the alleged incident. The classroom teacher may conclude that the alleged violation occurred or did not occur, or that the evidence is inconclusive. If the classroom teacher

concludes that the alleged violation did not occur or that the evidence is inconclusive, no written report of the matter will be maintained in a student's file.

In advising the Headmaster on the appropriate response to students who commit one or more acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying, the classroom teacher will consider the following factors: the developmental and maturity levels of the parties involved, the levels of harm, the surrounding circumstances, the nature of the behaviors, past incidences or past or continuing patterns of behavior, the relationships between the parties involved and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Concluding whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a determination based on all of the facts and surrounding circumstances. It is only after meaningful consideration of these factors that an appropriate consequence should be determined, consistent with the school's policies and applicable law.

Consequences and appropriate remedial action for students who commit acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion. Some acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying may be isolated incidents requiring that the school respond appropriately to the individuals committing the acts. Other acts may be so serious that they require a response by law enforcement officials.

**Any act of harassment, intimidation or bullying that may constitute sexual abuse or any other form of child abuse, and threats of violence against students, teachers, or staff, shall be reported to law enforcement officials as required by state law.**

The school prohibits retaliation against any person who reports an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying. The consequence and appropriate remedial action for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation shall be determined by the headmaster after consideration of the nature and circumstances of the act, in accordance with applicable school policies and law.