

**SANTA YNEZ VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**BULLYING-PREVENTION, RECOGNITION, AND ACTIONS UPON RECOGNITION**

Santa Ynez Valley Charter School believes that all students have a right to a safe and healthy school environment. The staff, students, parents and school community have an obligation to promote mutual respect, tolerance, and acceptance.

In accordance with California Education Code Sections 200, 220, 233, and 48900, the following policies are in place at Santa Ynez Valley Charter School.

**Definition:**

Physical, verbal, written or other means of harassment, sexual harassment, threats, intimidation, cyber-bullying, causing bodily harm or injury to or committing hate violence against any student or school personnel.

Cyber-bullying includes the transmission of harassing communications, direct threats or other harmful texts, sounds or images on the Internet, social media or other technologies such as a telephone, computer or any wireless communication device. Cyber-bullying also includes breaking into another person's electronic account and assuming that person's identity in order to damage that person's reputation.

**Prevention:**

The best way to deal with bullying is prevention. All students, staff, parents, and the school community must work together to create a positive and collaborative school climate that prevents bullying from happening. The school community can take the following steps to prevent bullying at Santa Ynez Valley Charter School and all school sanctioned events:

- Be friendly, kind, and courteous in all actions and interactions
- Work to get to know each other personally
- Demonstrate through our actions that we are worthy of mutual trust
- Have the courage to speak out when any student or staff member is anything other than courteous, kind, and friendly in words or in actions
- Be a positive role model -- demonstrate through your actions that you are committed to a positive and welcoming culture for all student, staff, parents, and community members at Santa Ynez Valley Charter School
- All staff will periodically review the definition of bullying and remind students of these steps to prevent bullying. Parents and students should also review this information periodically to help prevent bullying and remind students of ways to active in a positive manner
- Santa Ynez Valley Charter School will support all students with appropriate ways to communicate effectively, resolve conflicts, and interact positively in social situations. This will include, but not limited to, ways to show respect for individual and cultural differences, as well as appropriate positive behavior strategies
- Be alert for any signs of bullying as outlined above in the definition of bullying and report any bullying behaviors immediately to a responsible adult

**Recognition:**

It is the responsibility of all students and staff to be aware of and recognize bullying behaviors.

**Actions Upon Recognition:**

Should any bullying behaviors be observed on campus or during any school-sanctioned activity, Santa Ynez Valley Charter School:

- Expects students and/or staff to immediately report incidents of bullying to the appropriate staff member, school Director or designee.
- Students may submit an anonymous note to a staff member concerning bullying.
- Staff who witnesses such acts will take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so.
- The Director or designee will promptly investigate each complaint of bullying within a reasonable amount of time.
- The school will make reasonable efforts to keep a report of bullying and the results of investigation confidential. As appropriate, the Director or designee may notify parents/guardians of victims and perpetrators as well as involve counselors, mental health professionals or law enforcement.

**Disciplinary Actions:**

Any student who engages in bullying on campus, during any school sanctioned activity, or off campus in a manner that causes or is likely to cause a substantial disruption of a school activity or school attendance, is in violation of this policy and are subject to disciplinary action, in accordance with school policies and procedures, up to and including suspension and expulsion.