Our Lady of Hope Regional School
Bullying Prevention Policy

Mission Statement
Our Lady of Hope Regional School is committed to each student's success in learning within a caring, responsive, respectful and safe environment that is free of bullying, cyber-bullying, retaliation and other similar disruptive or violent behavior. Our school works to ensure that all students have the opportunity and support to develop to their fullest potential and share a personal and meaningful bond with others.

Definition of Bullying*
Bullying is the repeated use, by one or more students, of written, oral, or electronic expressions or physical acts or gestures of any combination therefore, with the intent to ridicule, harass, humiliate or intimidate the victim, directed at a Target, which a reasonable person should know would have the effect of:

- causing physical or emotional harm to the Target or damage to the Target's property;
- placing the Target in reasonable fear of harm to him/herself, or of damage to his/her property;
- causing the school environment to be permeated with intimidation, ridicule or insult that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of the Target's education; or
- materially and substantially disrupting the educational process or the orderly operation of a school.

Cyber-Bullying
Cyber-Bullying means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which shall include, but not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, texting or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system, including but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages or facsimile communications. This may also include the creation of a website or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person and leads to message sending or other communications that falsely accuse another.

Retaliation
Retaliation is any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment against a student who has reported a bullying situation or reports information when an incident is being investigated.

Prohibition against Bullying and Retaliation*

Bullying is prohibited:
- on School Grounds
- on property adjacent to School Grounds;
- at any school-sponsored or school-related activity, functions or programs whether on or off School Grounds;
- at a school bus stop;
- on a school bus or any other vehicle owned, leased or used by the school; or through the use of technology or any electronic device owned, leased or used by a school.

(over)
It is not the responsibility of the school to monitor events that are not school related.

**Prevention and Intervention**

It is the mission of the school community to be pro-active in preventing any incidents of bullying within the school, under the guidance and direction of the administration, the faculty, staff, community, students and parents will learn the key components of bullying and steps to prevent and/or intervene, as outlined in this policy.

If a situation is reported the following steps should be taken:

- Each report of a possible bullying situation will be investigated by administration.
- Determine if it was a case of bullying.
- The student identified as the bully will be asked to complete a behavior sheet. Which will be signed by student and parent.
- The student will be interviewed by administration or guidance counselor to determine what consequences will be given for the inappropriate behavior.
- Consequences to be considered but not limited to:
  - Lunch/recess detention
  - After school detention
  - Meet with counselor
  - If the same student is named in another case the above steps will be taken and in addition:
    - To contact parents
  - Other consequences if needed:
    - Student may not participate in a special activity or event
    - If the student is named at least 2 other times and depending on the seriousness of the case, Resource Officer will be contacted, parents will be notified
    - If such behavior continues suspension or expulsion may be the final result.