

## The Difference between Teasing and Bullying

### Teasing

Teasing occurs when you playfully poke fun at each other and neither party feels hurt. Everyone may have a good laugh but it is all in fun. Most importantly, playful teasing is not directed at someone's difference, such as religion, ethnicity, speech or appearance. ***At Kikino School we are working to educate our students on learning how to recognize when playful teasing is happening and for the student when to recognize when another student does not think that the teasing is funny anymore and how to back off and apologize.***

### Bullying

Bullying is intentional. This means that the bully intends to hurt the other person. Bullying also involves an imbalance of power, like an older child bullying a younger one. Bullying is also an aggressive and negative behaviour. Bullying can happen over and over.

Bullying takes many different forms:

- Taunting, calling someone names
- Threats or intimidation
- Social exclusion
- Insults based on race
- Gossip
- Graffiti
- Coercion, which is forcing someone to do something they don't want to do
- Stealing what the other person has
- Physical assault, such as hitting
- Cyber-bullying

Bullying can have long-term effects such as low self-esteem, avoiding school, and anxiety/depression.

### Taunting

Taunting occurs when a person makes fun of someone else with the intention of hurting their feelings. Sometimes taunting can be confused with teasing but it is not the same.

A taunter looks for a negative reaction, such as turning red, looking sad, teary, embarrassed or scared. Taunting can come in many forms.

For example, if someone asks, "Why do you talk like that?" or "Why do you look like that?" over and over, even if they get an answer, you should begin to suspect this has moved from mere curiosity to taunting. Another example may be calling a child with a craniofacial difference "flat face."

## **Staring**

Children with facial differences sometimes find that they experience frequent and intense (hard) staring. This is a form of taunting. For example, each time a student looks up in class, the taunter or bully is staring at them.

## **Social Exclusion**

Another common type of bullying is social exclusion. This means not letting someone play or join the group. For instance, one child might tell a child with a speech difference, "Anyone who doesn't talk through their nose can be in my club."

## **Cyber-Bullying**

With technology becoming easily available, cyber-bullying can take place by e-mail, text messaging or in chat rooms. For example, posting a student's picture on a web site with a negative comment is a form of bullying. This type of bullying can often cause great fear and anxiety. This type of bullying might also be a serious threat.

It's important for parents to monitor and closely watch what their children are looking at online and to teach them to use the Internet safely.

Sometimes when a child with a facial difference is bullied it is not clear that the bullying is related to their facial difference. Bullies might focus on other things, such as the child being shy, less popular, isolated or even not wearing trendy clothes.

## **Kikino School Code**

**I show respect by treating myself and others with care. I show tolerance by being willing to recognize and respect the beliefs and practices of others. I show kindness by opening my heart and caring for others. I show fairness by understanding the needs of others. I show conscience by doing what is right. I show empathy by thinking of other people. I show self control by using my hands, mouth, and feet in a way that is right.**

