

# Abingdon Dolphins Swim Club



## Abingdon Dolphins Swim Club; Statement of Intent

Abingdon Dolphins Swim Club adheres to the ASA anti-bullying policy.

Abingdon Dolphins Swim Club is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our members so they can swim in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at Abingdon Dolphins Swim Club. If bullying does occur, all swimmers or parents should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a *TELLING club*. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the Abingdon Dolphins Swim Club welfare officer.

### What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim. Bullying can be:

- Emotional - being unfriendly, excluding (emotionally and physically), sending hurtful text messages, tormenting, (e.g. hiding goggles/floats, threatening gestures)
- Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual - unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic - because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing

### Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Swimmers who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving. A club has a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

### Objectives of this Policy

- All teachers, swimmers and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All teaching staff should know what Abingdon Dolphins Swim Club's policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All swimmers and parents should know what Abingdon Dolphins Swim Club's policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a club we take bullying seriously. Swimmers and parents should be assured that they would be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

### Procedures

- Report bullying incidents to the Abingdon Dolphins Swim Club Welfare Officer or a member of the Committee or ring Swimline
- In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be referred to the ASA for advice
- Parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
- If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted
- The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying will be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
- An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour
- If mediation fails and the bullying is seen to continue Abingdon Dolphins Swim Club will initiate disciplinary action under the Club's constitution.



**NSPCC**   
**Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.**

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline direct:  
0808 800 5000  
(open 24 hours a day and calls are free).