

INFORMATION ABOUT BULLYING AND VIOLENCE TO MULTILINGUAL FAMILIES

Bullying means that a student is picked on repeatedly in school. Bullying can include pushing, hitting, name-calling, or making fun of someone. It can also mean that someone is left out or talked about in a mean way. Bullying is anything that is done on purpose to hurt or insult another person.

Violence means harming or threatening another person. Violence can be, for example, hitting, verbal abuse, isolation, sexual violence, or cruel behaviour online.

Harassment means behaving or speaking in a way that makes another person feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Harassment can include name-calling, spreading rumours, or insulting someone in other ways.

Discrimination means that a person is treated differently from others because of who they are. By law, no one may be discriminated against because of:

- age
- origin
- nationality
- language
- religion
- sexual orientation

Bullying, violence, harassment and discrimination can be a crime. For example, defamation, threats, or assault are crimes that are often connected to bullying, violence, harassment, or discrimination. <https://poliisi.fi/koulukiusaaminen-voi-olla-rikos>

WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL DO IF A STUDENT IS BULLIED OR HURT?

The school does not accept bullying, violence, harassment, or discrimination. An adult from your child's school will contact you if your child is bullied or if your child bullies someone else.

Every school has a KiVa-team. The KiVa-team helps solve bullying.

<https://www.kivaprogram.net/>

Every school has their own school rules. The school rules help keep the school a safe place for everyone. <https://www.kokkola.fi/en/education-and-training/basic-education/teaching-for-language-and-cultural-groups/>

Every school has a plan for equity.

Every school follows the principles for a safer space.

<https://www.kokkola.fi/en/turvallisemman-tilan-periaatteet-en/>

Every student has the right to receive support for learning and school attendance.

Every student has the right to school health care. Every student has the right to get help from a school counsellor and a school psychologist.

WHAT IS A CHILD WELFARE NOTIFICATION?

A **child welfare notification** means that the authorities are contacted when there is concern about a child's or young person's wellbeing. By law, the school staff must make a child welfare notification if they are very worried about a child.

A child welfare notification does not mean that the parents have done something wrong.

After a child welfare notification, the authorities:

- assess the situation.
- talk to the family.
- decide whether the child or family needs support.
- Children are not taken away from their home because of a child welfare notification!

<https://soite.fi/en/frontpage/services-and-contact/services-for-children-adolescents-and-families/child-welfare/child-welfare-notification/>

WHAT IS A POLICE REPORT?

A **police report** means telling the police about a suspected crime.

The school can file a police report if:

- a child or a young person has experienced violence.
- the school believes a crime has happened and the police must investigate it.
- the child's safety is at risk.

What happens next?

- The police assess the situation.
- They talk to the people involved.
- Sometimes nothing more happens.
- The police follow the law and work to protect the child.

<https://poliisi.fi/en/young-offender>

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

- Tell your child's teacher if your child is being bullied.
- Talk calmly with your child and the school and explain your point of view.
- The school can arrange a meeting with the bully and their parents.
- Talking often helps solve the situation and stop the bullying.
- Try to trust and work together with the school.
- Tell your child that you support them.
- Violence must be reported to the police. If your child has been hurt, for example hit or kicked, contact the police right away. <https://poliisi.fi/en/>
- <https://www.oph.fi/fi/koulutus-ja-tutkinnot/kiusaamisen-vastainen-tyo> (in Finnish)