



WAKE
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Why did you choose Wake Christian Academy as the school for your child? This is a question I pose to each new family who applies for admission to Wake Christian Academy. What sometimes follows is the sad tale of how their child was a victim of bullying at their previous school.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, over 70 percent of middle school students witnessed bullying in their schools in the past 12 months. Almost 30 percent of middle school students had experienced bullying in their school. Students reported name calling as the most prevalent type of bullying, followed by teasing, rumor-spreading, physical incidents, purposeful isolation, threats, and belongings being stolen. (1)

Bullying is defined as a form of aggression which involves one or more students verbally, physically, and/or psychologically harassing another student repeatedly over a period of time. In order for it to be defined as bullying the actions must be aggressive and include:

1. An Imbalance of Power: Kids who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others.
2. Repetition: Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.

One type of bullying is cyberbullying which uses electronic technology. Examples of cyberbullying include mean text messages or emails, rumors sent by email or posted on social media sites, and embarrassing pictures, videos, websites, or fake profiles.

At Wake Christian Academy we attempt to resolve all conflict regardless of its type or number. We understand that a simple message such as ‘Bullying is not tolerated here,’ is insufficient to resolve all conflict, and as such we take an active and accountable approach. How do we go about this?

Active approach

- We devote a chapel period each year to the topic of how to treat one another with our actions and words.
- We take each of our students on a local service-oriented mission trip the students work side by side providing manual labor on a variety of projects. This is followed by a chapel time where our school leaders share with the students the importance of working together and serving others. These activities help our students to break down barriers among themselves and focus their attention on a common goal, which is bigger than themselves.
- Our teachers clearly teach that bullying directly contradicts the life and teaching of Jesus Christ
- Our middle school teaching team is exposed to in-service training on identifying and helping students who may experience being bullied.
- During the first three weeks of school, during lunch, our middle school students sit with students they are not familiar with to give them an opportunity to build new friendships.
- In 6th grade bible class, we use tools such as the book *Peacemakers* by Ken Sande. In 7th grade English we study the book *Wounded Spirit* by Frank Peretti. Both of these books provide practical suggestions for how to resolve interpersonal conflict.

Accountable approach

- We secure the safety of the targeted student
- We investigate the situation and then take appropriate remedial action to full address the conflict including prohibiting retaliatory action



- We confront students who use hurtful words or conduct harmful actions toward each other and hold them accountable. We attempt to get to the cause of the conflict
- We partner with our parents to help our students make wise choices.
- We counsel with students for extended periods of time to ensure that they have the tools to resolve conflict on their own

At Wake Christian Academy, we not only take bullying seriously but also any conflict between students. The safety of our students is of utmost importance. We strive for our students to treat one another in Christian love but we know that where people live “sin abounds.” This is the reason we take an active, preventive, and accountable approach to bullying.

“Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

—James Baldwin

- stopbullying.gov