

**Melrose Area Elementary School**  
**Minor/Major Problem Behavior Definitions & Examples**

Minor Problem Behavior	Definition	Example
Defiance	Student Intentionally engages in brief and low intensity avoidance/escape of work and/or not following adult directions.	not following directions, non-work compliance, refusal to participate, not following the classroom rules in academic, social, and behavioral aspects
Disrespect	Low intensity but purposeful use of unkind behaviors and/or attitude toward another person that does not show regard for others feelings.	rude, impolite comments, talking back, treating others as if they are beneath you
Disruption	Low intensity physical or verbal action that disrupts other students' or their own learning.	yelling, crying, noises, blurting, large motor movement, moving around the room
Physical Contact	Brief and/or nonserious touching of another person without their consent and/or invading another person's personal space.	unwanted touching, inappropriate physical displays of affection, being in another person's bubble
Inappropriate Language	Low intensity instance of negative and/or disrespectful language (in any language) that is not academically/socially acceptable.	name calling, words used to hurt others
Property Misuse	Low intensity use of items for a purpose for which they were not intended.	writing on desks, breaking property (pencils, erasers, etc.), standing on chairs or desks
Technology Violation	Nonserious use of technology inappropriately, including but not limited to accessing programs and/or websites that are not part of the academic plan.	use of inappropriate websites, using a password that is not your own, cyberbullying- one occurrence, use of personal or school device when not allowed

Major Problem Behavior	Definition	Examples
Defiance	Chronically and intentionally trying to avoid/escape work and/or not following adult directions.	not following directions, non-work compliance, refusal to participate, not following the classroom rules in academic, social, and behavioral aspects
Disrespect	Purposeful and chronic unkind behaviors and/or attitude toward another person that does not show regard for others feelings.	rude, impolite comments, talking back, treating others as if they are beneath you
Disruption	Chronic physical or verbal action that disrupts other students' or their own learning.	yelling, crying, noises, blurting, large motor movement, moving around the room
Physical Aggression	Purposeful behavior intended to hurt or cause harm to another. This may include physical contact, but it also may include using objects to cause harm.	hitting, kicking, throwing objects at someone, punching, tripping, slapping, and pushing
Inappropriate Language	Chronic and/or purposeful use of negative and/or disrespectful language (in any language) that is not academically/socially acceptable.	Repeated unintentional swearing and/or one instance of purposeful swearing, name calling, words used to hurt others
Property Misuse	Activity that results in destruction or disfigurement of property.	vandalism, purposefully breaking property (desks, tables, chairs, etc.), throwing property, locker destruction
Harassment	Intentionally trying to cause emotional/physical harm by using verbal/physical tactics that are demeaning and make another person feel threatened.	gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, race, religion, disability, physical features, or other personal identity characteristics
Bullying	Chronic and purposeful actions done by one person that is used to intimidate another person which results in an imbalance of power.	face-to-face, cyber, written, physical, emotional, and verbal, repeated threats, name calling, teasing, taunting, intimidation

Fighting	Mutual participation in an incident causing verbal or physical harm to others by using aggressive language, intimidation, and/or physicality.	hitting, kicking, punching, slapping, yelling, pulling hair, biting, scratching, persistent arguing
Theft/Plagiarism	Intentionally taking something that does not belong to you.	stealing someone's personal property, stealing school property, stealing intellectual property
Technology Violation	Using technology inappropriately, including but not limited to accessing programs and/or websites that are not part of the academic plan.	use of inappropriate websites, using a password that is not your own, cyberbullying, use of personal or school device when not allowed
Lying/Cheating	Deliberately dishonest in words and work and in direct violation of rules	plagiarism, copying answers, stating mistruth
Inappropriate Location/Out of Bounds	Intentionally being outside of an area that is designated by a teacher or adult.	running off the playground, leaving school grounds, being in a location when not allowed, going to the bathroom without permission
Use/Possession of Weapons	Any item/object (real or look alike) that is used or intended to be used to cause harm toward others.	knives, guns, sharp objects, using scissors with intention to harm