

PIPER HILL LEARNING TRUST
PIONEER HOUSE HIGH SCHOOL



PREVENTING BULLYING

Preventing Bullying Policy

(This policy has regard to DfE guidance, 'Preventing and tackling bullying' 2014)

[Preventing and tackling bullying advice](#)

CONTEXT

Safe guarding and bullying

Under the Children Act 1989 a bullying incident should be addressed as a child protection concern when there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm'. Where this is the case, the school staff will report their concerns to the local authority children's social care.

Criminal Law and Bullying

Bullying in itself is not a specific criminal offence in the UK, however the Trust will bear in mind that some types of harassing or threatening behaviour – or communications – could be a criminal offence, for example under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, the Malicious Communications Act 1988, the Communications Act 2003, and the Public Order Act 1986.

If school staff feel that an offence may have been committed they will seek assistance from the police. For example, under the Malicious Communications Act 1988, it is an offence for a person to send an electronic communication to another person with the intent to cause distress or anxiety or to send an electronic communication which conveys a message which is indecent or grossly offensive, a threat, or information which is false and known or believed to be false by the sender.

Bullying outside school premises

Teachers have the power to discipline pupils for misbehaving outside the school premises "to such an extent as is reasonable". This can relate to any bullying incidents occurring anywhere off the school premises, such as on school or public transport, outside the local shops, or in a town or village centre.

Where bullying outside school is reported to school staff, it will be investigated and acted on. The head teacher will also consider whether it is appropriate to notify the police or anti-social behaviour coordinator in their local authority. If the misbehaviour could be criminal or poses a serious threat to a member of the public, the police will always be informed.

In all cases of misbehaviour or bullying the teacher can only discipline the pupil on school premises or elsewhere when the pupil is under the lawful control of the staff member.

Cyber-bullying

The rapid development of, and widespread access to, technology has provided a new medium for 'virtual' bullying, which can occur in or outside school. Cyber-bullying is a different form of bullying and can happen at all times of the day, with a potentially bigger audience, and more accessories as people forward on content at a click. Teachers can tackle cyber-bullying by providing a specific power to search for and, if necessary, delete inappropriate images (or files) on electronic devices, including mobile phones (Education Act 2011).. Separate advice on teachers' powers to search (including statutory guidance on dealing with electronic devices) is available

This policy should be read in conjunction with the anti-discriminatory policies of Piper Hill Learning Trust which take account of:

- Culture including race and skin colour
- Ethnic or national origin
- Nationality including citizenship
- Age
- Gender
- Disability
- Social class
- Marital status
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy or maternity and
- Piper Hill Learning Trust's British values Policy.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is defined behaviour by an individual or a group, repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally.

Bullying can take many forms (for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages or the internet), and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because a child is adopted or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences. The school's first priority is to stop any violence and ensure immediate physical safety. Emotional bullying can be more damaging than physical; teachers and schools have to make their own judgements about each specific case.

Bullying often involves an imbalance of power between the perpetrator and the victim. This could involve perpetrators of bullying having control over the relationship which makes it difficult for those they bully to defend themselves. The imbalance of power can manifest itself in several ways, it may be physical, psychological (knowing what upsets someone), derive from an intellectual imbalance, or by having access to the support of a group, or the capacity to socially isolate. It can result in the intimidation of a person or persons through the threat of violence or by isolating them either physically or online.

Types of bullying might be:

- **physical** (hitting, kicking, theft)
- **verbal** (name calling, racist remarks)
- **emotional** (spreading rumours, excluding someone from social groups)
- **cyber bullying** (any form of bullying using a mobile phone or the internet, chat rooms, social networking sites, instant messaging or email)

This policy acknowledges that bullying can occur against pupils, staff and students. Pupil focused bullying in schools impacts on the emotional health of young people, which may affect attainment, attendance, truancy and criminal activity within local communities. It is therefore recognised that preventing bullying is considered a priority for all pupils, students and staff at school. Bullying is anti-social behaviour and affects everyone; it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Piper Hill Learning Trust seeks to ensure that all members of the school community work and learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. All issues of bullying are addressed so that all are able to fully benefit from the opportunities available at school.

Preventing bullying

Within the Trust, a school's response to bullying does not start at the point at which a child has been bullied. School staff proactively gather intelligence about issues between pupils which might provoke conflict and develop strategies to prevent bullying occurring in the first place. The PSHE and wider SMSC curriculum includes planned opportunities talking to pupils about issues of difference, through lessons, dedicated events or projects, or through assemblies. Staff themselves will determine what will work best for their pupils, depending on the particular issues they need to address.

Schools within the Trust create an ethos of good behaviour where pupils treat one another and the school staff with respect because they know that this is the right way to behave. Respect for staff and other pupils, an understanding of the value of learning, and a clear understanding of how actions affect others are embedded in the core values of the Trust and are reinforced by staff and older pupils who set a good example to the rest.

Schools also involve parents to ensure that they are clear that the school does not tolerate bullying and are aware of the procedures to follow if they believe that their child is being bullied. The school seeks to ensure that parents feel confident that the school will take any complaint about bullying seriously and resolve the issue in a way that protects the child, and they reinforce the value of good behaviour at home. Through specific PSHE and SEAL modules on anti-bullying all pupils understand the school's approach and are clear about the part they can play to prevent bullying, including when they find themselves as bystanders.

In lessons pupils are encouraged to openly discuss differences between people that could motivate bullying, such as religion, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality; also children with different family situations, such as looked after children or those with caring responsibilities. Children are taught that using any prejudice based language is unacceptable. The School Council have written a Preventing bullying charter and offer peer support.

Schools within the Trust regularly evaluate and update their approach to take account of developments in technology, for instance updating 'acceptable use' policies for computers. The skills and understanding of internet safety are taught within the Computing curriculum and embedded in curriculum delivery.

Pupils and staff are encouraged to report bullying in school. Staff ensure that pupils are able to approach them so that they feel confident to report all bullying, knowing that it will be dealt with immediately. Staff are advised to be alert to the signs of bullying and act promptly and firmly against it in accordance with school policy.

Effective training, included in induction for all staff, supports school staff to understand the principles and purpose of the school's Preventing Bullying policy, its legal responsibilities regarding bullying, how to resolve problems, and where to seek support.

Intervention

Schools within the Trust will intervene with pupils who bully in order to show clearly that their behaviour is wrong, applying disciplinary measures as appropriate to the needs and understanding of the pupil. Disciplinary measures will be applied fairly, consistently, and reasonably taking account of the needs or disabilities that the pupils have and taking into account the needs of vulnerable pupils. The schools will consider the motivations behind bullying behaviour and whether it reveals any concerns for the safety of the perpetrator. Where this is the case it is acknowledged that the child engaging in bullying may need support themselves.

The following steps will be taken when dealing with incidents:

- if bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached
- a clear account of the incident will be recorded and given to the appropriate member of the senior leadership team
- SLT will interview all concerned and will record the incident offering a restorative approach
- The Head Teacher, safeguarding lead and pupil's tutor will be kept informed
- Parents will be informed
- Other professionals will be kept informed, as appropriate.

Pupils:

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported and helped by:

- The offer of an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with a form tutor or member of staff of their choice
- Reassurance
- The offer of on-going, appropriate support
- Help to restore self-esteem and confidence
- The opportunity to acknowledge the impact of bullying through restorative approaches

Appropriate steps will be taken towards dealing with the perpetrator in line with the school's behaviour policy.

Staff (Please read this in conjunction with the Whistle Blowing Policy)

Bullying at work may be an abuse of power, position or co-worker abuse. Bullies often use persistent, vindictive, cruel or humiliating behaviour to undermine, criticise, condemn, or humiliate an individual. This can impact on emotional health, performance and attendance.

Procedure:

Staff are advised to

- avoid becoming isolated, and to seek immediate support and advice from peers or a member of the SLT
- raise concerns with senior staff so that they are aware of the situation
- keep a record of all incidents which cause you distress or are undermining - log dates and details and write down your feelings after each such occurrence together with your own response
- avoid situations where you are alone with the bully
- keep your complaint as objective as possible so that you can't be accused of filing the complaint out of malice or ambition
- talk to friends and family for emotional support

Policy Information and Review

Policy review dates (frequency of review: every 3 years)

Date	Changes made	By whom
March 2016	Policy updated/reviewed	Headteacher/SLT