

# Parents Anti-Bullying Leaflet

## School definition:



*"The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or through cyberspace."*



*We remember it as STOP: Several Times On Purpose.*

## What is bullying?

As parents, when our child tells us of an issue in school, maybe concerning a child or group we are familiar with, we may often worry this is a result of bullying.

Sometimes our children and their peers fall out, as parents/carers we need to be able to recognise the difference between these occasions and those which could be classed as bullying.

Bullying, as stated in the definition above, is a repeated, harmful and intentional act by a person or group towards a person or group where the relationship suffers a power imbalance. This would make the situation difficult for the victim to defend themselves. The act is usually persistent.

## What does bullying look like?

Bullying can be physical, verbal or emotionally negative behaviour which reoccurs and can include:

- Physical assault- kicking, punching, shoving or any actual intentional negative contact.
- Taking or damaging a person's belongings- hiding another child's property for example.
- Name calling, taunting or mocking.
- Making offensive comments- racial/religious slander, disability language, misogynistic, gender, transphobic, prejudice related or homophobic comments (these could include using language such as 'gay' 'paki' or teasing a child because of their nationality for example).
- Cyberbullying
- Producing offensive graffiti.
- Gossiping and spreading hurtful or untruthful rumours.
- Excluding people from groups or activities.

Although bullying can occur between individuals, often there can be bystanders/witnesses who can be watching, filming, cheering or not offering support or reporting the incident. These people are just as much to blame as the person who is committing the bullying act.

## Cyber bullying

Cyber bullying is a major concern for a growing number of parents and carers in today's society. The fear now for children is that they may never get that escape to safety in their own home. The feeling that a bully could target you, from inside your own bedroom, can be terrifying for anyone, especially a child.

There are a wide range of acts which can be classed in this category. Some are:

- inappropriate text messaging, emailing or messaging via online apps (e.g. Whatsapp and Snapchat)
- sending offensive or degrading images
- impersonating and hacking into accounts online (social media, Xbox Live)
- posting photographic images or posts about a person without their consent is very serious, please don't hesitate to contact the police. They take cyber bullying very seriously.

This type of bullying can start in school and can progress online. On the other hand, something could be said online which triggers the reaction in behaviour in school. Whilst most incidents of cyber bullying occur outside of the school, we will still provide support to parents/carers and their children who experience online bullying and treat the situation with the same severity as any other form of bullying.

*In school we ensure our children are taught safe ways to use the internet (see our online safety policy) and encourage good online behaviour.*

Here is a direct link to the school's online safety policy:

<https://www.priestsicprimaryschool.co.uk/policies/>



## Mediation

*Mediation is the key to social harmony*

Children are encouraged to stop conflict before it escalates out of control. In order to do this they must be able to:

- Listen to all sides of a story
- Identify and exchange solutions
- Reach a compromise which is acceptable for all parties

These vital three steps together, form a strategy that works for the majority of conflict related incidents. If the situation is of a more serious nature then other measures may be appropriate.

## Reporting and responding to bullying.

Our school has clear and well publicised systems to report bullying for the whole school community (including staff, parents/carers, children and young people) this includes those who are the victims of bullying or have witnessed bullying behaviour (bystanders).

Quite often children tell their parents about arguments and incidents in school which have made them upset or angry. If you hear the same name repeatedly used you may become concerned that it is a result of bullying. The majority of the time everyone becomes friends again pretty quickly and it was just a case of falling out between individuals or a group.

Arguments between children of any age are a very common occurrence. If however, you and your child feel the incident is something which cannot be resolved and is causing distress, please encourage them to do the following so they can get the support they need:

1. **Tell any member of staff.** This adult will then notify the class teacher who will be logged on CPOMs. The children will be spoken to separately and then, if appropriate, together. The information will then be passed to SLT. Children are encouraged through the preventative work we do in school to speak to an adult in school as well as their parents. We cannot help unless we know there is a problem.
2. **Children who are the bystanders to bullying incidents are also encouraged to tell someone they trust.** The message conveyed to pupils through preventative work we do in school is that if they are a bystander and do nothing, then they are seen to be taking part in the bullying.
3. **As a parent, if you suspect that your child is being bullied, or suspect your child may be the perpetrator of bullying, please contact their class teacher immediately.** Parents have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying policy and to actively encourage their child to be a positive member of the school.

All staff are aware of the need to take all concerns seriously and to ensure that relationships are nurtured to encourage information sharing.



## Procedures

All reported incidents will be taken seriously and investigated thoroughly. The staff are aware of and follow the same procedures:

- All staff will investigate all bullying allegations thoroughly.
- Teachers will record all incidents that happen on CPOMs.
- Teachers will work with the pupils to ascertain whether the incident is falling out or bullying.
- We ensure that the incident is dealt with in line with the school policy.
- Interviewing all parties.
- Informing parents.
- Implementing appropriate disciplinary sanctions in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.
- Being clear that responses may also vary according to the type of bullying and may involve other agencies where appropriate.
- Following up- We will keep in touch with the person who reported the situation, which may be parents/carers or other adults.
- We have a clear complaints procedure for parents who are not satisfied with the actions of the school. This is available online or from the school office.
- We will use a range of responses and support appropriate to the situation. These may include solution-focused approaches, restorative approaches, circle of friends, individual work with the victim, perpetrator and bystanders or referral to outside agencies if appropriate.
- Liaising with the wider community if the bullying is taking place off the school premises i.e. in the case of cyber-bullying or hate crime.

At Priestsic Primary and Nursery School we aim to create a secure and safe environment for the pupils in our care, so that parents may send their children to school in the confident knowledge that their children will be protected from behaviour that causes them mental, physical or emotional distress. If situations do arise, they will be dealt with in a consistent, fair and sensitive manner.

