



Stockport School

Stockport School Anti- Bullying Policy

Rationale

Bullying affects everyone, not just bullies and the victims. It also affects those other children who watch, and less aggressive pupils can be drawn in by group pressure. Bullying is not an inevitable part of school life or a necessary part of growing up, and it rarely sorts itself out. It is clear that certain jokes, insults, intimidating/threatening behaviour, written abuse and violence are to be found in our society. No one person or group, whether staff or student, should have to accept this type of behaviour. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed, will a child best be able to benefit from the opportunities available at the school. Stockport School is a caring community, committed to ensuring that all students feel safe and at ease with us.

The school believes that its students, regardless of age, gender, race, sexual orientation, colour, religion or disability have the right to learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without the fear of being bullied.

All institutions, both large and small, contain some numbers of students with the potential for bullying behaviour. Stockport School makes it clear that bullying is a form of anti-social behaviour. It is **WRONG** and will not be accepted.

The school has a clear written policy to promote this belief. Both students and parents/guardians are made fully aware that any bullying complaints will be dealt with firmly, fairly and promptly. The emphasis is on the school being a 'telling' school.

A definition of bullying

Bullying can occur through several types of anti-social behaviour. It is persistent, wilful and conscious behaviour intended to hurt, threaten or frighten. It can be physical, verbal, exclusion, damage to property or theft.

Bullying can include:

- threats of violence (verbal and non-verbal);
- ignoring /shunning
- name calling, teasing, ridiculing, mimicking, sarcasm
- interfering with property, borrowing equipment without permission
- remarks and/or behaviour about race, sexual orientation, family
- incitement by others to commit an act of bullying
- graffiti designed to intimidate and/or embarrass
- fighting (even between equals)
- demanding money , material goods and/or favours through intimidation or force
- vandalism
- invading privacy



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- bullying through text, use of mobile technology such as camera phones, internet messaging, email or social networking sites

Bullying can lead to distress in children and some of the following signs may indicate bullying is taking place:

- children become withdrawn
- standard of work deteriorates
- the child becomes isolated
- attendance is erratic
- the child often arrives late to school
- the child is generally unhappy through anxiety or fear
- bed wetting or sleepless nights occur
- the child shows a desire to be with adults
- self-harm
- suicide attempts

Dealing with Bullying: Stockport School's Approach

Information for students. What can you do about bullying?

Remember that your silence is the bully's greatest weapon! It is best to tell an adult (your form tutor, or head of year, parent or any other teacher) straight away. You will get immediate support.

- Tell yourself that you do not deserve to be bullied, and that it is wrong!
- Be proud of who you are. It is good to be individual.
- Try not to show that you are upset. It is hard but a bully thrives on someone's fear.
- Stay with a group of friends/people. There is safety in numbers.
- Be assertive – shout "No!" Walk confidently away. Go straight to a teacher or member of staff.
- Fighting back may make things worse.

Teachers will take you seriously and will deal with bullies in a way which will end the bullying and will not make things worse for you.

If you know someone who is being bullied:-

- Take action! Watching and doing nothing looks as if you are on the side of the bully. It makes the victim feel more unhappy and on their own.
- If you feel you cannot get involved, tell an adult immediately. Teachers have ways of dealing with the bully without getting you into trouble.
- Do not be, or pretend to be, friends with the bully.

Guidance for Parents:

- Look for a change in behaviour in your children.
- Always take an active role in your child's education. Enquire how their day has gone, who they have spent their time with, how lunch time was spent etc.



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- ❑ If you feel your child may be a victim of bullying behaviour get them to tell their Pastoral Manager or Form Tutor
- ❑ Contact your child's Pastoral Manager or Form Tutor immediately yourself for advice and support. It will be taken seriously and appropriate action will follow. You can telephone or email at any time and be assured that this will be directed to the appropriate person who will make contact with you.
- ❑ It is important that you advise your child not to fight back. It can make matters worse.
- ❑ Tell your own son or daughter there is nothing wrong with him or her. It is not his or her fault that they are being bullied.
- ❑ Make sure your child is fully aware of the school policy concerning bullying, and that they should not be afraid to ask for help. The school will sort it out.

School action

- ❑ The school encourages students and parents to tell teachers about bullying incidents.
- ❑ All reported incidents are taken seriously and investigated as soon as possible. They will be dealt with quickly, firmly and fairly.
- ❑ Support will be given to the victim and the bully. The emphasis will be on behaviour modification. Bullies will be given the opportunity to understand the feelings of their victim and what are the effects of their bullying. School has successfully used the strategy of inviting parents of both parties into school, with the children to draw the bullying to a conclusion through empathy and negotiation work. However, persistent bullies will be dealt with more severely using school sanctions. Police may be involved in serious bullying incidents.
- ❑ The school community will be organised in order to minimise opportunities for bullying, e.g. by providing increased supervision at problem times and in problem areas.
- ❑ Opportunities will be provided to discuss aspects of bullying, and the appropriate way to behave towards each other, e.g. using the PSHEE programme, in assemblies etc.
- ❑ The School Policy and its degree of success will be reviewed annually.
- ❑ The school staff will continue to have a firm but fair discipline structure.
- ❑ Teaching materials or equipment which give a bad or negative view of any group because of their ethnic origin, sex, etc. will not be used.
- ❑ Students will be encouraged to discuss how they get on with other people and to form positive attitudes towards other people. This will include a review of what friendship really is.
- ❑ Students will be encouraged to treat everyone with respect.

Action to be taken when bullying is suspected

If bullying is suspected we talk to the victim, the alleged bully and any witnesses. If any degree of bullying is identified, the following action will be taken. Help, support and counselling will be given as is appropriate to both the victims and the bullies:

We support the victims in the following ways:

- ❑ By offering them an immediate opportunity to talk about the experience with their class teacher, or another teacher if they choose
- ❑ The teacher will use the supportive approach to dealing with the bullying.
- ❑ Informing the victims' parents/guardians



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- ❑ By offering continuing support in a number of ways when they feel they need it.
- ❑ By taking one or more of the six disciplinary steps described below to prevent more bullying.

We also support and try to help the bullies in the following ways:

- ❑ By talking about what happened, and working with the bully. The 'supportive approach' will be used to try to stop the bullying.
- ❑ Informing the bully's parents/guardians.

The 'supportive counselling approach' is intended to get the bully to stop. If this fails the following disciplinary steps will be taken to prevent further bullying.

Disciplinary Steps

1. They will be warned officially to stop offending.
2. Their parents/guardians will be informed.
3. They may be internally excluded from the school premises at break and/or lunch times.(INTEX)
4. Parents may be required to escort to and from the school premises.
5. They may have a fixed period or permanent exclusion from school and/or a period in Intex. (Internal exclusion)
6. If they do not stop bullying they will be excluded for a fixed period.
7. If they will not end such behaviour, they will be permanently excluded.

If it is found that a malicious complaint about bullying is made this will be treated very seriously.

Contacts

In the first instance, please contact your child's Form Tutor or Pastoral Manager. They will involve the appropriate Senior Leader as necessary. Please contact the school again if the bullying restarts or continues.

Please note that advice to students about handling bullying is also outlined in the Stockport School Student Planner.

'The views of teaching and support staff; student's via School Council and School Governors and Parents/Carers via Consultation Survey's has been sought to incorporate a 'whole school approach' towards dealing with bullying of any nature.'

Date reviewed – October 2106

Review date – October 2018