

Summarised Student Anti-Bullying Policy
(A full version is available on the school website)

Aims & purpose of the policy

At Stockport School, we want to create a school community where bullying is not allowed. At our school, the safety and well-being of everyone is a main priority. Bullying affects everyone, not just bullies and the victims. It also affects those other people who watch, and other people can also be drawn in by group pressure. Nobody should have to accept bullying.

Our school is a place where people have the right to be themselves. Everyone at our school is equal and should treat each another with respect and kindness. The school believes that all members of the school community, regardless of age, sex, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, colour, religion or disability have the right to be in a supportive, caring and safe environment without the fear of being bullied.

Students should know that any bullying complaints will be dealt with firmly, fairly and quickly.

Our definition of bullying:

“Bullying is the deliberate desire to threaten, intimidate, upset or hurt someone, which may be repeated over time, which involves a real or perceived power imbalance.”

STUDENTS:

Students should not take part in any kind of bullying and should watch out for signs of bullying among their peers. They should never be bystanders to incidents of bullying, but should offer support to the victim and, if possible, help them to tell a trusted adult. The school promotes the ethos that “if you’re not part of the solution, you are part of the problem” and emphasises to students that silence when seeing bullying is like accepting it. Students should inform staff if they see others being bullied.

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.

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 victim's parents/carers
- ❑ 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/carers.

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.

Restorative meetings may be offered for any incident which is deemed to be Race or Hate related (including homophobic and transphobic incidents)

Bullying outside of school

Bullying is unacceptable and will not be tolerated, whether it takes place inside or outside of school. Bullying can take place on the way to and from school, before or after school hours, at the weekends or during the holidays, or in the wider community. The nature of cyber bullying in particular means that it can impact on students' well-being beyond the school day. Staff, parents, carers and students must be vigilant to bullying outside of school and report and respond according to their responsibilities as outlined in this policy.

School will use their sanctions when it becomes apparent that any incident of bullying is having an impact on an individual and/ or the school community.