



Stony Dean School

Working to Inspire

Stony Dean School

ANTI BULLYING POLICY

Date Set: September 2022

Date Reviewed: September 2024



Stony Dean School

Working to Inspire

At Stony Dean we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our students so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all students should be able to tell staff and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a **TELLING** school. This means that *anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional - being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual - unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic, Biphobic or Transphobic- because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality or gender
- Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber- All areas of internet ,such as email & internet chat room misuse
- Mobile - threats by text messaging & calls
- Misuse of associated technology , i.e. camera & video facilities

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. This is a school where everybody is treated with respect and understands their responsibilities in doing so. Pupils who bully need support to learn different ways of behaving.

Stony Dean School has a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying. It is important to understand driving behaviours of all those involved. Is it an unmet need related to a young person's disability, it is a social interaction gone wrong? It's important to look at the driving behaviour to address the incident and subsequently reduce the likeness of it happening again.

Objectives of this Policy

- ✓ All governors, and staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- ✓ All governors and staff should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- ✓ All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- ✓ As a school we take bullying seriously. Students and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.



Stony Dean School

Working to Inspire

Everyone at Stony Dean understands that bullying will never be ignored.



Stony Dean School

Working to Inspire

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- doesn't want to go on the school bus or taxi
- asks to be driven to school by parents
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school
- begins to stay away from school
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or "go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money
- has dinner or other monies continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

Procedures

- Pupils must report **all** bullying incidents to staff
- Bullying incidents will be recorded on an Orange Incident Report Form with correct coding and put through the usual procedures. (see Appendix)
- Members of staff are encouraged to deal with low level bullying incidents in the first instance
- The incident will be investigated firstly by Hub Coordinator and brought to the attention of Senior staff depending of the type of incident and the pupils concerned.
- The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
- A range of sanctions may be applied depending on the nature of the bullying incident, following guidelines in the Positive Behaviour Policy.
- In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
- If necessary and appropriate, the Police and the Local Authority will be consulted



Stony Dean School

Working to Inspire

- The bully (bullies) will need support to change their behaviour and this will be through a range of strategies including Restorative Justice Agreements, teaching in PSHCEE and Rights Respecting Schools Award activities and targeted intervention in the Hub base.
- The Headteacher will collate evidence and produce termly reports for the Governing Body and the Local Authority

The school is committed to reducing bullying through a range of preventative approaches:

- PSHCEE, tutor group time and School Council (Student Voice) discussions
- School culture of tolerance and mutual respect enforced at all levels by all stakeholders
- Rights Respecting Schools Award activities and principles embedded in learning
- the use of the “circle of friends” approach to class members experiencing difficulty either as a bully or victim
- Restorative Justice approach to solutions
- group work, assemblies and role play across the curriculum promoting awareness and valuing of difference
- counselling in order to promote a sense of self-worth
- consistent re-enforcement of the need to both build and maintain positive relationships
- Raising awareness through events such as Anti-bullying week.

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) 0808 800 5793

Children's Legal Centre 0845 345 4345

KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4) 0845 1 205 204

Parentline Plus 0808 800 2222

Youth Access 020 8772 9900

USEFUL WEBSITES:

Anti Bullying Alliance www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk

Bullying Online www.bullying.co.uk

Beat bullying www.beatbullying.org.uk

Childline www.childline.org.uk

Kidscape www.kidscape.org.uk

NSPCC www.nspcc.org.uk