

Maidensbridge Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy



This document complies with articles 3, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 29, 30, 31, 39, 40 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.



Reviewed: April 2026

Reviewed by: Mrs G Morgan and Yr 5 and 6 anti-bullying ambassadors

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Version 5

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Statement of Intent

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school and includes any of our children involved in online bullying outside of the school day. If bullying does occur (in school or online), all pupils should be able to tell someone and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should understand what bullying is.
- All governors and teaching and non-teaching 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. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will **not** be tolerated in our school or online.

What is bullying?

Bullying is repeated negative behaviour that is intended to make others feel upset, uncomfortable or unsafe.

Types of bullying behaviour

🗣️ Verbal bullying- this is the repeated, negative use of speech, sign language, or verbal gestures to intentionally hurt others, e.g. using hurtful words, discriminatory or offensive language, or swear words.

👤 Indirect bullying- this is the repeated, negative use of actions, which are neither physical nor verbal, to intentionally hurt others e.g. spreading rumours, purposefully excluding another person, damaging or stealing someone's property, or cyberbullying.

👊 Physical bullying- this is the repeated, negative use of body contact to intentionally hurt others, e.g. kicking, punching, slapping, inappropriate touching, or spitting.

💻 Cyberbullying is the repeated, negative use of technology to intentionally hurt others e.g. posting unwanted and hurtful pictures or messages, accessing another person's account without permission or making group chats that are intended to isolate or be mean to someone

BULLYING IS NOT:

Bullying is **NOT**:

- A one-off accident
- A disagreement or 'fall out' with a friend
- Something that is not done on purpose

(However, unsafe or hurtful behaviour should always be reported.)

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:

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

- *Changes in behaviour or expressed feelings: eating less/more than usual, withdrawn, anxious, sad, moody, angry, lowered grades, wanting to alone all the time.*
- *Avoids special activities-sudden loss of friends and/or not wanting to be around usual group of friends.*
- *Making excuses not to go to school.*
- *Missing/damaged valuable possessions.*
- *Unexplained physical marks, such as bruises.*
- *Obsession or withdrawn from electronic devices.*
- *Wearing long-sleeved tops or covering up when it is not needed.*
- *Troubling sleeping patterns or frequent nightmares.*
- *Intense or strong emotional reactions.*

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Maidensbridge Anti Bullying Ambassadors

At Maidensbridge Primary School, our anti-bullying ambassadors are a group of Year 5 and 6 pupils who have been trained through the Diana Award Programme to teach children how to be a buddy on the playground and an ambassador for kindness and collaborative play and working. These pupils are available to support others during lunchtimes. They can be easily recognised by their blue and yellow bibs. Our ambassadors are committed to being kind, caring, trustworthy, and helpful to everyone.

Procedures

1. Children should report bullying incidents to staff, anti-bullying ambassadors or any adult they trust – whether it happens to the pupil themselves or they witness it happening to someone else. Children should be taught the difference between a Bystander and an Upstander.

What is a Bystander and an Upstander?

Bystander: A bystander is a person who notices something wrong happening but chooses not to take any action and simply watches.

Upstander: An upstander is someone who sees something wrong happening and steps in to help or speaks up.

A bully will often warn their victim not to tell; children should be educated that this warning is a clear message that they SHOULD tell.

2. Any parent who has a concern should discuss with the class teacher in the first instance. If the matter is not resolved then the matter should pass to the Key Stage Lead, Deputy Headteacher, Headteacher and then eventually to the Governing Body.
3. Incidents will be recorded by staff on CPOMS. In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come into a meeting to discuss the problem.
4. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted.
5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated, and the bullying stopped quickly.

6. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.
7. At any report of bullying staff should ALL be informed, and observations taken of key times such as lunchtimes and break-times and other social times.
8. Where observations show no evidence of bullying, the school will consider other methods of investigation to trace the problem as it could be a flagging of another issue.
9. If a child or parent reports an incident of cyber bullying or bullying through phone misuse then advice will be given about reporting the bully online and blocking them from access to their devices. Messages may be shared with school from devices, but not images, to support the investigation and if proven the parents of the child who is creating the messages will be spoken to by school.

Outcomes

1. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place.
2. In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered.
3. The pupil who has been bullied will be supported.
4. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled, and restorative conversations will be facilitated by staff to find a way forward that the victim is in agreement with.
5. After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.
6. The monitoring of reported bullying will be the responsibility of all staff and reports of bullying cases will be summarised and reported to the Curriculum Committee of the Governing Body.

Prevention

We strive to prevent bullying through a variety of measures:

1. Promoting a positive school culture through our school values.
- 2 . Writing a set of school rules.
- 3 . Signing a behaviour contract.
- 4 . Through the PSHE curriculum that includes lessons on relationships, safe and unsafe relationships and mental health. Lessons cover the impact of bullying on relationships and behaviour, providing children with the knowledge and skills to handle bullying situations effectively. The curriculum also helps children understand the impact of cyberbullying and the importance of maintaining safe online interactions.
- 5 . Reinforcement through school assemblies, workshops, anti-bullying week and world kindness day.

- 6 . Having discussions about bullying and why it matters in every class.
- 7 . Encouraging children and adults to talk openly, particularly encouraging parents and children to talk together about how the school day has been, including positives, achievements and worries.
- 8 . Having and promoting Anti-Bullying Ambassadors to make Anti-Bullying a constant message.

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4)	0300 102 4481
Childline	0800 1111
NSPCC	0808 800 5000

Visit the Kidscape website www.kidscape.org.uk or <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information> for further support, links and advice.