

Platt Bridge Community School



Anti-Bullying Policy

School Name: Platt Bridge Community School

Address: Rivington Avenue, Platt Bridge, Wigan, WN2 5NG

Headteacher: Mr. Stephen Wallace

Policy Written By: Nicola Wood

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1. Our Anti-Bullying Commitment

At Platt Bridge Community School, we are committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where every pupil feels valued. Bullying, in any of its forms, is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated. This policy outlines our proactive approach to preventing bullying and our clear procedures for responding to it effectively.

This policy is based on the statutory guidance "Behaviour in Schools" and the "Equality Act 2010," and should be read in conjunction with our school's Behaviour Policy. We believe that a strong anti-bullying culture is fundamental to our school's mission and our core 'Good Habits' of being cooperative, ambitious, honest, and respectful.

2. What is Bullying?

Bullying is defined as repetitive behaviour that is intended to hurt another individual or group, either physically or emotionally. Bullying is different from a one-off incident or a simple disagreement.

Bullying can be:

- **Physical:** Pushing, kicking, hitting, or any form of physical violence.
- **Verbal:** Name-calling, taunting, making offensive comments, or spreading rumors.
- **Emotional:** Excluding someone from a group, intimidation, or manipulating relationships.
- **Cyberbullying:** Using technology to bully others through social media, messages, or emails. This includes sharing embarrassing photos or videos.
- **Prejudice-based:** Bullying motivated by a person's protected characteristics, such as their race, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.

We recognise that bullying can happen between pupils, from a pupil to a staff member, or from a staff member to a pupil. Our policy covers all of these scenarios.

3. Our Anti-Bullying Strategy

Our strategy is built on three key pillars:

Prevention: Creating an Inclusive Culture

We take a proactive approach to prevent bullying from happening in the first place.

- **Curriculum:** Our curriculum, including PSHE and our wider school culture, is designed to teach pupils about empathy, respect, and diversity.
- **Open Communication:** We encourage pupils to speak up and report any concerns, no matter how small. We actively promote an environment where pupils feel comfortable talking to any member of staff.
- **High Expectations:** Our 'Good Habits' of being cooperative and respectful are at the heart of our behaviour policy, and all staff consistently reinforce these expectations.

Intervention: Responding to Bullying

When bullying is reported, we will respond promptly, sensitively, and effectively.

- **Report It:** All pupils are encouraged to report bullying to a trusted adult, such as their class teacher, a member of the pastoral team, or a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).
- **Listen and Investigate:** We will take every report seriously. Staff will listen carefully, investigate the claims, and speak to all individuals involved. We will not label a pupil as a "bully" but will focus on the unacceptable behaviour itself.
- **Support for All:** We will support the pupil who is being bullied to ensure their safety and well-being. We will also work with the pupil who is doing the bullying to help them understand the impact of their actions and learn to make better choices.
- **Inform Parents:** We will inform the parents of all pupils involved as soon as possible and work with them to find a solution.

Sanctions: Making It Right

In line with our Behaviour Policy, bullying incidents will result in a range of sanctions that are proportionate to the severity and repetition of the behaviour.

- Sanctions may include a loss of 'Golden Time,' a letter of apology, a restorative justice meeting, or, for more serious or persistent incidents, a suspension or a permanent exclusion.
- We will make it clear to the pupil who is doing the bullying that their behaviour is unacceptable and has serious consequences.

4. Supporting Pupils with SEND and Protected Characteristics

We are committed to protecting all pupils, especially those who are more vulnerable to bullying due to their protected characteristics or Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We will make reasonable adjustments to ensure all pupils are protected and supported. Any bullying that is a result of prejudice will be treated with the utmost seriousness.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team (SLT):** The Headteacher holds overall responsibility for this policy and its implementation. The SLT is responsible for investigating incidents and deciding on appropriate sanctions.
- **Teaching Staff:** All staff are responsible for maintaining a vigilant watch for bullying, responding to pupil concerns, and consistently applying this policy.
- **Pupils:** All pupils are responsible for being kind and respectful to one another and for reporting bullying when they see or experience it.
- **Parents:** We expect parents to support the school in our anti-bullying efforts and to work with us if their child is involved in an incident.

6. Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher and Governing Body will monitor all bullying incidents on a termly basis. The policy will be formally reviewed every two years, or sooner if necessary, to ensure it remains effective in protecting our pupils.