

Stepney All Saints School

We Learn Together | We Pray Together | We Achieve Together



Anti-Bullying **Policy**

Committee Review: P&C

Ratified: March 2024

TBR: June 2027

SLT Responsible: I. Cameron

Aim

At Stepney All Saints Secondary School we aim to provide a safe, caring and friendly environment for all of our students to allow them to learn effectively, improve their life chances and help them maximise their potential.

We are a school which sets high standards for our students, it is important to us that we create an atmosphere in which bullying cannot thrive and in which no student has to suffer from harassment of any kind. We would expect students to feel safe in school, we also want them to feel confident to seek support from school should they feel unsafe.

Although there is no legal definition of bullying we define it as:

The repetitive intentional hurting of one person or a group by another person or group, often the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying generally falls into the following categories:

- Physical – Unprovoked assault on a person or group which can range from a 'prod' to grievous bodily harm. This also includes unacceptable behaviour like 'birthday beats' etc
- Psychological - Reduction of a person's self-esteem or confidence through taunting or teasing about any feature of their lives which can be used to wound them.
- Social – Rejection by peer group.
- Verbal – The use of language in a derogatory or offensive manner, such as swearing, racist or sexist abuse, sexual innuendo, spreading rumours, etc.
- Cyber/online bullying - misuse of e-mails, images, text, blogs, tweets, forums and chat rooms to hurt /embarrass /demean /harass /provoke or humiliate another using perceived anonymity - misuse of mobile phones by text messaging /calls or images – again to hurt /embarrass /demean /harass /provoke or humiliate another using perceived anonymity- unauthorised publication or manipulation of private information; impersonation. We are conscious that this type of bullying can happen at all times of the day, with a potentially huge audience.
- Other – Other forms of bullying include interference with personal property, extortion, etc.

Stepney All Saints Secondary School is particularly conscious of vulnerable groups of children who may be a target of bullying or harassment. Including those exposed to:

- Racist incidents
- Homophobic incidents
- Gender Bullying
- Children with Special Educational Needs.

Bullying can take place between:

Young people
Young people and staff
Between staff Individuals
or groups

Guidelines for students.

It is important that all members of our school community make every attempt to recognise and report all forms of bullying.

If you think you are being bullied:

- Tell a member of staff immediately. You will be listened to and the member of staff will discuss with you how the issue can be resolved. It is important that all members of the school community (adults and students) work together to create an atmosphere of trust.
- Tell a friend and they will contact a member of staff.
- Tell someone at home and ask them to contact your tutor or Head of Year.
- Tell a peer mentor or any student in the school you trust.
- Save all messages sent to you via text or e-mail.

If you think a friend or someone else in the school is being bullied:

- Encourage them to report it and offer them help to do so if necessary.
- Tell a member of staff.
- Tell someone at home who can report it to the school

Guidelines for Parents/Carers

If you think your child is being bullied:

- Reassure your child that you and the school will work together to make things better and that where possible the incident will remain confidential while it is being investigated.
- Contact the school immediately. You can speak to the form tutor, Head of Year, Head of Key Stage or any other member of staff. They will deal with the issue sensitively.
- Maintain contact with the school as the issue is being investigated. If the bullying does not stop, ensure that the school is informed so that further action can be taken.
- Monitor your child's use of the internet and in particular websites for social networks.

What will happen to students involved in bullying?

- They will have to explain their behaviour to a member of staff.
- An account of the incident will need to be written down and signed. The staff member/s involved in the incident will record the information and action on the e-portal system.
- The parents will be told and may be invited to school to see a copy of the incident and to discuss the follow up course of action to be taken.
- The report will be kept on file.
- The student involved in the bullying incident may be required to apologise to the person bullied. The person bullied may wish to explain how the bully has made them feel. In addition school may arrange for a mediation or restorative justice meeting to take place, this will be facilitated and attended by an identified member of staff eg Head of Year , member of SLT
- The student/s involved in bullying may be required to have a detention with a senior member of staff at break, lunchtime and after school.
- The student/s involved may be required to go on report while their behaviour is monitored.
- The student/s involved may be placed in the Stepney Learning Centre (SLC) for a fixed period of time. This provides the opportunity to reflect on behaviour and discuss strategies to prevent this happening again.
- The victim and perpetrator/s may be offered support from a counsellor.
- If a student is involved in bullying their parents/carers will be expected to meet with a member of staff to discuss their future at this school.
- An account of the bullying incident and the subsequent action may be sent to the local authority.
- The student/s involved in bullying may be required to have a PSP (Pastoral Support Plan). In addition the student/s may have an EHA (Early Help Assessment) completed. The students involved may be issued with a formal warning and may be at risk of losing their place at the school.
- The student/s involved may be excluded from this school for a fixed period of time or for permanent exclusion
- These sanctions may apply even if the incident of bullying happens outside of school.

As a school we will:

- Maintain a strong anti-bullying ethos within the school reinforced by behaviour management; assembly presentations and curriculum content. In addition school will highlight and be involved in the national anti-bullying week, it will also organise it's own separate anti-bullying week with an identified focus.
- Encourage staff to identify bullying and to recognise the procedures in the school to deal with the issue.
- Encourage staff to record all types of bullying on SIMS/Edulink. Parents will also be able to check using the Edulink App.
- Maintain high levels of staff supervision at lesson change over, morning break, lunch time and after school.
- Investigate all alleged incidents of bullying.
- Provide the means to support victims of bullying. This may mean a referral for counselling for the victim and/or the perpetrator.
- The school may use mediation to prevent future incidents of bullying.
- Monitor student use of the internet using agreed filters/firewalls.
- Consider the use of restorative justice as a method of preventing bullying
- Ensure adequate sanctions are taken and also to make sure support and guidance is provided.
- Model good behaviour. At all times acting in a way that addresses concern regardless of how difficult this can be.
- Check regularly on the welfare of a student who has been the victim of bullying. Provide access to relevant support e.g. school counsellor referral.
- To provide in-service training for staff to manage behaviour and to detect and respond to bullying.

Monitoring and effectiveness of Policy:

- The school will monitor the anti-bullying policy through the checking of SIMS entries. This information is supplied to HOYs and link SLT to analyse for patterns/areas of concern.
- The school will survey parents and students to check that concerns regarding bullying are being addressed.

Links with other policies:

Safeguarding policy

eSafety policy

Behaviour, Discipline & Exclusion policy

Equal Opportunities & Diversity policy

Whistle blowing policy