

Presdales School



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Author/Title	Sara Miller Deputy Head Pastoral
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Governor Link	Mark Dunstan
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Enquiries & comments

Any enquiries and comments about this publication may be made to:

Telephone: 01920 462210 / **Email:** admin@presdales.herts.sch.uk

Address: Presdales School, Hoe Lane, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 9NX

Section 1

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Policy Statement

Bullying is a complex issue which we address in school. We seek to foster mutual respect and create a safe, caring community, where members feel free to voice their concerns. Governors, staff and students at Presdales School agree that bullying is unacceptable, we expect all members of the school community to act in a considerate, respectful and courteous manner at all times. All incidents of bullying will be dealt with in a serious and thoughtful manner.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is intimidation, often repeated, and intentionally carried out by an individual or group in order to cause hurt. Bullying is usually part of a **pattern of behaviour**, rather than an isolated incident. **Falling out and “tit for tat” behaviour does not constitute bullying.** If an individual considers themselves to be bullied, this may have a negative impact on their emotional well-being, which can perpetuate the fear of a further perceived or real incident and this will need to be dealt with. Particular groups are more vulnerable to experiencing bullying: looked after children, traveller children, children with a disability, children with SEN, bullying motivated by racism or homophobia. Bullying is an abuse of power and can take many forms including:

- **Physical**, such as hitting, kicking or pushing
- **Psychological**, such as teasing, name-calling, spreading rumours, excluding people on purpose, taking someone else's belongings, demanding money or food
- **Cyber**, such as leaving malicious text messages, online abuse, recording electronically malicious websites, malicious use of chat rooms, taking images of members of the school community without their consent.

Cyber-bullying is defined as the use of the internet, mobile phones and any social networking sites deliberately to upset someone else. Cyber-bullying can be responsible for negative effects on academic performance and self-confidence. The Education Act 2011 gives schools the power to search electronic devices, delete data where appropriate and confiscate devices.

The school may take action when cyber-bullying has taken place off school premises, if the conduct affects the school's reputation or the welfare of a member of the school community. Cyber-bullying may contravene the Equality Act 2010, under which harassment on the grounds of “protected characteristics” for example, race and sexual orientation, is unlawful.

In addition, the act of cyber-bullying may contravene the Obscene Publications Act 1959 or the Protection of Children Act 1978. In all such cases, we will refer the matter and pass any evidence to the police.

Parents are reminded that any child under 13 years old is not permitted to have a Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or Snapchat account. All Year 7 and some Year 8 students should therefore NOT be using these forms of social media. In addition, the age requirement for using Whatsapp is 16, so students below Year 11 should not be using it. We would ask parents and carers' support in monitoring their children's use of electronic devices to ensure problems in school are not created.

Please note: all social networking sites are blocked from school equipment.

Aims and Objectives

We aim to prevent and deal with any behaviour deemed as bullying and to promote an ethos where bullying is regarded as unacceptable, so that a safe and secure environment is created for everyone to learn and work in.

This will be achieved through:

- Raising awareness of what constitutes bullying and gaining an understanding as to why some children bully and are bullied.
- Positive action to prevent bullying through school and year assemblies, the scheme of work for PSHE and SMSC activities during Form time.
- Development of a consistent response to any bullying incidents of which the school is aware
- Provision of support for all members of the school community who may be involved in a bullying situation.
- Developing and supporting home, school and community partnerships.

Advice to Students

What Should You Do?

If you are in a situation which makes you feel unhappy in school or you know someone else who is, you should:

- tell a friend, or a member of your family

and you must

- tell your Form teacher, or another member of staff, a lunch time supervisor, or a Big Sister

Why?

- No one has the right to make you feel unhappy or uncomfortable. Bullying must be stopped.

What Will Happen Then?

The teacher or member of staff will listen and discuss the problem with you. It may then be necessary to involve your Head of Year and plan further strategies if necessary to solve the problem.

Help will be given to you and the bully if required.

Presdales can be an even happier school provided that -

- We help and care for each other
- We have respect for each other
- We treat others the way we would like to be treated

We need your help to make this possible

Advice For Staff

a) Managing a Bullying Incident

Staff to whom the incident is reported or who first discover the incident should:

- take time to write a full account of the incident (bearing in mind the roles seen may be ambiguous)
- give this report to the Head of Year as soon as possible

- take time to make the situation safe if necessary, ie control of a bully and support for a victim

b) Form Teacher/Head of Year

A number of strategies can be considered but the response should make clear to all concerned that: this school **takes bullying seriously**

- a record of the incident will be kept and filed
- appropriate action will be taken (Appropriate consequence given)
- regular communication with parents/carers
- the situation will be closely monitored and reviewed

c) Possible Strategies/Intervention

We promote behaviour to prevent and reduce bullying by:

- Working with the bully and victim to raise self-esteem
- The delivery of high quality teaching and the promotion of a positive learning environment
- Through the taught elements of PSHE and form time and form time SMSC activities
- Peer support
- 'bully box' outside the main school office
- Use of the school counsellor
- Whole school and Year group activities and assemblies
- A range of extra – curricular activities at lunchtimes
- Supervised after school homework club
- E-Safety education for students and parents/ carers

d) What should we ask of bystanders?

- report any bullying
- never to join in with the bully
- discourage any type of bullying behaviour

e) Working with parents on bullying behaviour

- encourage parents to contact school if they are aware of, or suspect bullying
- encourage parents to respond non-aggressively both to their children and to others

- ask parents to support students outside the school, in the community at large
- suggest that parents support school if further action needs to take place

f) Reviewing the policy and monitoring incidents of bullying

- The anti-bullying policy will be evaluated yearly to assess its effectiveness throughout the school.
- All bullying incidents are recorded
- Students perceptions are that the school is prepared to take action and that Presdales is a safe environment
- An increased sense of collective responsibility

This policy will be used in conjunction with the Behaviour for Learning policy.

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