

Leicester Preparatory School

Anti-Bullying Policy

Review date: August 2026

Next Review: Sep 2027

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Principles

At Leicester Preparatory School, bullying behaviour is unacceptable in any form. Our children have an absolute right to be educated in a safe and secure environment. We recognise that bullying behaviour is a problem for both the bully and the victim and should be dealt with positively and constructively. This policy should be read along with LPS Positive Behaviour Policy.

Definition

The school sees bullying as “deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend them.”

It can take many forms, but the main identified types are:

- Physical (e.g. hitting, kicking, biting and theft)
- Verbal (e.g. name calling, racist remarks)
- Indirect (e.g. spreading rumours, excluding someone from social groups)
- Cyberbullying (eg bullying through use of electronic devices such as on social media).
- Can include misogyny, self-generated intimate images and AI generated deepfakes.

When asked, children and staff defined bullying as:

- an action and/or words intended to hurt,
- hitting, kicking or biting,
- teasing someone about his/her; size, intelligence, family or ethnic background, deliberately hiding/taking other people’s belongings,
- Deliberately ignoring someone.

They believe bullies:

Can be boys or girls, big or small, or adults, who like having power and scaring people.

Aims

To create a safe place for children to learn by:

- Responding quickly to incidents.
- Eliminating intimidating behaviour and promoting our school ethos.
- Offering a positive, dynamic and caring environment where effort and achievement are praised and rewarded, and sanctions are applied for poor behaviour (see LPS Positive Behaviour Policy).
- Being proactive in the prevention of bullying.
- Keeping all staff aware of incidents.

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs and behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and should investigate promptly if a pupil displays any of them. For a list of the possible signs and symptoms, see Appendix A.

Strategies for dealing with bullying

Children should:

- inform an adult (teacher, helper or parent) if they believe someone is being bullied
- inform an adult (teacher, helper or parent) if they feel they are being bullied
- Show kindness and support to someone whom they feel is being bullied.
- They should not ignore bullying.
- Avoid language that might normalise harmful behaviour or stigmatise certain groups. Please refer to the RSE Policy.

Staff should:

- act promptly to reported/witnessed incidents
- record all incidents of bullying and monitor the effectiveness of strategies employed
- share information between all members of staff regularly
- discuss/compile class rules at the beginning of each academic year
- remember that both victims and bullies need support
- discuss in circle time, in RE, in personal and social development in Lower School and PSHE lessons in Upper School ways to help children to be aware of this sort of behaviour
- use assemblies to promote good behaviour
- Be aware in the playground and during free play times of potential problems.
- Act promptly and discourage pupils to avoid language that might normalise harmful behaviour or stigmatise certain groups. Please refer to the RSE Policy.
- Use the Fundamental British Values, particularly ‘mutual respect and tolerance’ to discourage bullying.

Dealing with incidents

Timing is important. Ignoring minor incidents of intimidation or nastiness is unwise, and the reaction should be immediately before things deteriorate. We do not look at bullying from a purely punitive viewpoint, and we try to turn negative situations into positive developments for the future. The school aims to maximise these positive approaches.

Action

- Each incident should be dealt with promptly and recorded in the incident file.
- Each situation is treated individually.
- The Headmistress and all relevant staff are made aware of the situation.
- Persons involved spoke individually and then together.
- If the situation is serious or prolonged, parents of children involved will be informed, and a home/school book may be used.
- The situation may be dealt with internally, and sanctions employed.
- If this is unsuccessful, the children may be suspended or ultimately required to leave.

Appendix A

Bullying Signs and Symptoms

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

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- begins truanting
- becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs way
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly at school
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions go ‘missing’

- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above