

**PACES HIGH GREEN SCHOOL**  
**POLICY DOCUMENT PS/PD.14**  
**ANTI-BULLYING**

**STATEMENT**

As part of the 'I can do' philosophy within the conductive education programme we strive to maintain a high standard of behaviour, and our approach is one of encouragement and praise, concentrating on the positive aspects of behaviour. We believe it is possible to adapt any inappropriate behaviour related to the pupil's condition within the conductive education programme. It is our intention that any incidences of bullying, within this very structured environment and in this positive atmosphere which is central to our whole school philosophy, should be dealt with very quickly before there is any escalation of the problem. However, any serious incidences of inappropriate behaviour linked to our school code will be dealt with through our 'Encouraging Positive Behaviour' policy. Any follow up procedures will then be encompassed within this same policy. Having stated all of the above we do recognise that bullying behaviour could occur at any time and come from different directions, including other pupils and also adults. This policy therefore covers any incidents of bullying behaviour during school time, whether in school or during out of school activities.

**DEFINITION**

We think of bullying as being deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. We are aware that our pupils are very vulnerable, and have particular difficulties communicating their concerns and fears, and therefore it is particularly difficult for them to defend themselves. We also think of bullying as when someone keeps doing something or saying things; perhaps to have some form of power over another person. Some of the ways which we consider that our pupils could be bullied are:

- By verbal communicators - name calling, including racist remarks - where the pupil/person knowingly is aware of what is being said
- Knowingly saying or writing inappropriate things about a person, including comments about a pupil's disability
- Sexual bullying: including sexual innuendo – abusive name calling (including where it refers to sexual orientation); looks/comments about appearance, attractiveness, emerging puberty; inappropriate and uninvited touching, sexual innuendoes and propositions; pornographic material, graffiti with sexual content; in its most extreme form, sexual assault or rape
- Knowingly being left out of activities
- Deliberately not being talked to
- Being threatened in any way
- Knowingly being made to feel uncomfortable or scared
- Having personal property taken or damaged
- Deliberately being physically abused, e.g. being hit or kicked
- Knowingly being made to do things which they do not want to do
- Via the internet – on-line chat rooms/cyberbullying

**OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

We shall challenge any bullying effectively through the positive environment of our conductive education programme in order to promote the safety and happiness of our pupils. The aim of our anti-bullying policy is to ensure that all our pupils develop in a safe and caring environment without the fear of being bullied and where their self-esteem is maintained or restored. We recognise bullying to be an anti-social behaviour which is totally unacceptable and as such should not be tolerated. We know that there is the possibility of it happening at any time, and if we see that a pupil is being bullied by another pupil or by an adult we shall always:

- challenge the behaviour immediately
- never ignore suspected bullying behaviour
- question the pupil as to whether they would like to be treated in that way - treat others the way you would like to be treated yourself
- challenge the pupil by letting them know that what they are doing is hurtful, harmful, unnecessary and stupid
- help and encourage the person being bullied to talk with someone of their choice, who they feel they can trust
- listen carefully to the information we are given so that we receive the most accurate information possible and always beware of making assumptions
- teach those students who are able to understand, issues around cyberbullying, what safe and responsible on-line behaviour means and to know the SMART rules. Staff are trained to understand the e-safety issues and risks.

### **PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW**

1. Pupils will always be reassured that ANY concerns they have, including if they think they are being bullied, will be dealt with sensitively and effectively.
2. If pupils communicate a concern or if a pupil's behaviour appears anxious or out of character, then pupils will be encouraged to talk with an adult of their choice. This would apply whether or not the anxiety was linked to bullying or any other concern.
3. A pupil might choose to talk to someone who they can trust; an adult in school or a parent/carer.
4. Pupils will always be encouraged to share any concern they have using the most appropriate communication method for that pupil.
5. If the concern highlights unacceptable behaviour of any sort then the adult should discuss with the pupil what action might be taken and who might be involved.
6. Communication books between home and school should be used to raise any issues and concerns staff may have about a pupil's changed behaviour. This will raise awareness of changed behaviour and promote further discussion and communication.
7. Face to face discussion between school and parents/carers will always be used to discuss changed behaviour or any incidences of unacceptable bullying behaviour from within school.
8. If the raised concern about bullying involved another adult in school, then the school's disciplinary action would become active.
9. If the raised concern about bullying involved a pupil then we might feel it necessary to use the school's process for 'positive behaviour intervention', which would then become part of the 'positive intervention programme'.
10. Any incidences of bullying which require the above intervention will be recorded in the school incidence book.

### **INCIDENCES OF BULLYING OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL PREMISES**

If the raised concern about bullying involved someone outside of school, then the school staff and headteacher would discuss the issue before making a decision of who should be involved, e.g. if a parent/carer was suspected, then our 'Safeguarding' policy would become active, including contacting the MAST team. If transport/escort services were involved, then transport services would be informed, but again our 'Safeguarding' policy would become active. If someone within the respite service/youth service was involved, then parents would be alerted before further action took place.