



The Castle Partnership Trust
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Anti-bullying Policy

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To be operated in conjunction with the Safeguarding Policy, Behaviour for Learning Policy and the E-Safety Policy.

PURPOSE:

- To help every member of the school feel secure and able to learn effectively

KEY POINTS:

- Every individual has a right to a secure school environment in which they feel safe and happy; no student should be subject to harassment, discrimination or victimisation
- It is the responsibility of every member of the school to help create and maintain this environment
- All reported cases of bullying will be investigated fully and appropriate action taken.
- The House System is designed to encourage older students to help younger members of the House
- Students who join the school after the normal start time are closely monitored and support is available to ensure they feel safe and secure
- Safe places for vulnerable students are provided at free times e.g. Learning Development Department, library, lunchtime clubs, breakfast facilities before school, Qdos, computer facilities.
- Students are encouraged to report bullying incidents to staff. Help to do so will be provided through House prefects, the buddy system and Senior Students. Appendix 1 will be displayed in all form rooms

What is Bullying?

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms (for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages or the internet), and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because a child is adopted or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences. Stopping violence and ensuring immediate physical safety is obviously a school's first priority but emotional bullying can be more damaging than physical; teachers and schools have to make their own judgements about each specific case.

Many experts say that bullying involves an imbalance of power between the perpetrator and the victim. This could involve perpetrators of bullying having control over the relationship which makes it difficult for those they bully to defend themselves. The imbalance of power can manifest itself in several ways. It may be physical, psychological (knowing what upsets someone), derive from an intellectual imbalance, or by having access to the support of a group, or the capacity to socially isolate. It can result in the intimidation of a person or persons through the threat of violence or by isolating them either physically or online.

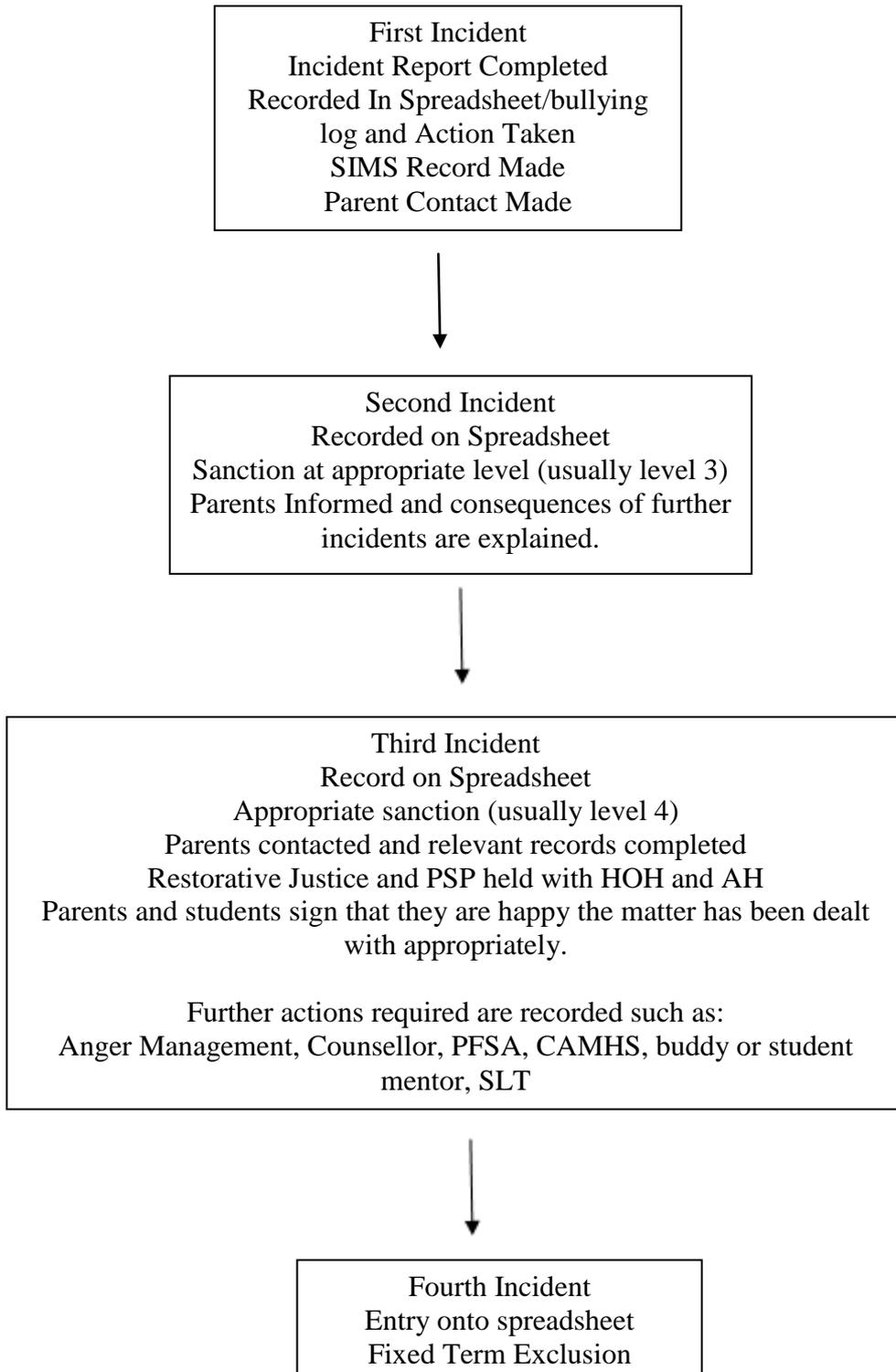
Although bullying in itself is not a specific criminal offence in the UK, it is important to bear in mind that some types of harassing or threatening behaviour – or communications – could be a criminal offence, for example under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, the Malicious Communications Act 1988, the Communications Act 2003, and the Public Order Act 1986. If school staff feel that an offence may have been committed they should seek assistance from the police.

Cyber-bullying

The rapid development of, and widespread access to, technology has provided a new medium for 'virtual' bullying, which can occur in or outside school. Cyber-bullying is a different form of bullying and can happen at all times of the day, with a potentially bigger audience, and more accessories as people forward on content at a click.

Under the Malicious Communications Act 1988, it is an offence for a person to send an electronic communication to another person with the intent to cause distress or anxiety or to send an electronic communication which conveys a message which is indecent (sexting) or grossly offensive, a threat, or information which is false and known or believed to be false by the sender. (definitions taken from Preventing and tackling bullying; Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies, March 2014)

Procedures for dealing with Bullying



Bullying outside school premises

Teachers have the power to discipline pupils for misbehaving outside the school premises “to such an extent as is reasonable”. This can relate to any bullying incidents occurring anywhere off the school premises, such as on school or public transport or outside the local shops. Where bullying outside school is reported to school staff, it should be investigated and acted on. The school will often involve the PCSO assigned to the school if the behaviours are entirely out of school.

APPENDIX 1

EVERY INDIVIDUAL HAS A RIGHT TO A SECURE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THEY FEEL SAFE AND HAPPY. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL TO HELP CREATE AND MAINTAIN THIS ENVIRONMENT.

No-one likes a bully. If you are being bullied or you see someone else being bullied you should report it to a member of staff such as:-

your form tutor;
your head of house;
school nurse
a subject teacher;
a deputy head/assistant head;
or Headteacher.

We will always listen.

If you need help to do this tell:-

a friend, your parents, your house prefect, senior students or your 'buddy'.

Never feel afraid to come forward.