



# STANCHESTER ACADEMY

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**ANTI-BULLYING POLICY**

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**Signature of Chair of Governors**

**Signature of Headteacher**

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## Introduction

Bullying can be defined as 'behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally.

It can take many forms (for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages, social media or gaming, which can include the use of images and video) and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, special educational needs or disabilities, or because a child is adopted, in care or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences.

Bullying also 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.

Low-level disruption and the use of offensive language can in itself have a significant impact on its target. If left unchallenged or dismissed as banter or horseplay it can also lead to reluctance to report other behaviour. At Stanchester Academy we ensure early interventions are put in place to help set clear expectations of the behaviour that is and isn't acceptable and help stop negative behaviours escalating. Keeping Children Safe in Education defines bullying as a form of abuse, 'peer-on-peer abuse'. Stopping violence and ensuring immediate physical safety is our school's first priority, but emotional bullying can be more damaging than physical; the school will make judgements about each specific case.

## Types of Bullying

Bullying can be:

- **Emotional** including isolation of others by a refusal to co-operate with them and exclusion, being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures), deliberately excluding from social groups or an activity by refusal to sit next to/ talk to/ work/ co-operate with others. Emotional bullying can also include malicious rumours, e-mails or text messages, and exclusion from play/discussions etc. with those whom they believe to be their friends.
- **Physical** including the threat of physical harm, intimidation through physical gestures and actions, jostling, serious fighting, pushing, kicking, spitting, hitting, punching or any use of violence, use of weapons/threatening use of weapon (or any object which could be used as a weapon), the abuse of personal property, taking or hiding belongings, deliberately destroying or damaging work or possessions or removing personal property.
- **Verbal** including name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, making snide comments, teasing, humiliating others, threatening others, inciting others to humiliate and threaten others.
- **Written** including spreading rumours by writing or printing unkind or malicious messages and pictures on paper.
- **Cyber** not occurring face to face but rather through electronic means including, but not limited to, social networking sites, internet and intranet sites, email, instant messaging, by mobile phone including through text messages and phone calls, photographs both real and manipulated.
- **Racist** including bullying directed at individuals of a certain race, culture, ethnicity, language, faith, community, national origin or national status. The distinctive feature of racist bullying is that the victim is attacked not as an individual but as the representative of a family, community or group. This is an area where schools are required to keep statistics about incidents.
- **Cultural** including focusing on and/or playing off perceived cultural differences or similar.
- **Sexist** covering a wide range of behaviour from name calling to physical sexual assault. It is the use of sexual language or negative stereotyping on the basis of gender.
- **Sexual** including unwanted or inappropriate physical contact or sexual innuendo.
- **Homophobic** including bullying directed towards people who are openly gay, bisexual, are perceived as gay, or show characteristics. Heterosexual young people subject to homophobic bullying are less reluctant to report it as

this may enforce the stereotypical way that they are already viewed by others so sensitivity and positive support is required for victims.

- **Religious** including attacking faith, belief, religious practice or custom.
- **Special Educational Needs and Disability** including remarking upon, drawing attention to, or discriminating against persons with physical disabilities or learning difficulties or other identified special educational needs such as emotional and behavioural disabilities (EBD) and Specific Learning Difficulties (SLD) - Dyslexia, Dyscalculia and Dyspraxia.

All young people should be able to attend school without any fear of being bullied. Bullying is not tolerated at Stanchester Academy and all accusations are taken seriously and dealt with. We consider the pastoral care of our young people to be of prime importance. During the school day this role largely rests with teachers and support staff.

## Signs and Symptoms

A young person may indicate be signs and behaviour that they are being bullied. All adults should be aware of these possible signs and investigate further if a student:

Is frightened of walking to or from school	Attempts or threatens suicide or absconds
Doesn't want to go on the school/public bus	Cries themselves to sleep at night or had nightmares
Begs to be driven to school	Feels ill in the mornings
Changes their usual routine	Begins to do poorly at school
Is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)	Comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
Begins to truant	Has possessions that get damaged or 'go missing'
Becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence	Asks for money or starts stealing money
Starts stammering	Has food or money constantly go missing
Has unexplained cuts or bruises	Is bullying siblings or other students
Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable	Stops eating
Is frightened to say what is wrong	Gives improbable excuses for any of the above
Is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone	Is nervous and jumpy when cyber messages are received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems and concerns, but bullying should be considered as a possibility and should always be investigated. Students are encouraged to share their concerns with staff and using Whisper. Any concerns are passed to the DSL.

## Responding to a report of bullying

All staff at Stanchester Academy will be vigilant and endeavour to be alert to and respond to bullying behaviours. The flowchart in Appendix 1 details how staff should respond to any concerns or reports of bullying in the school.

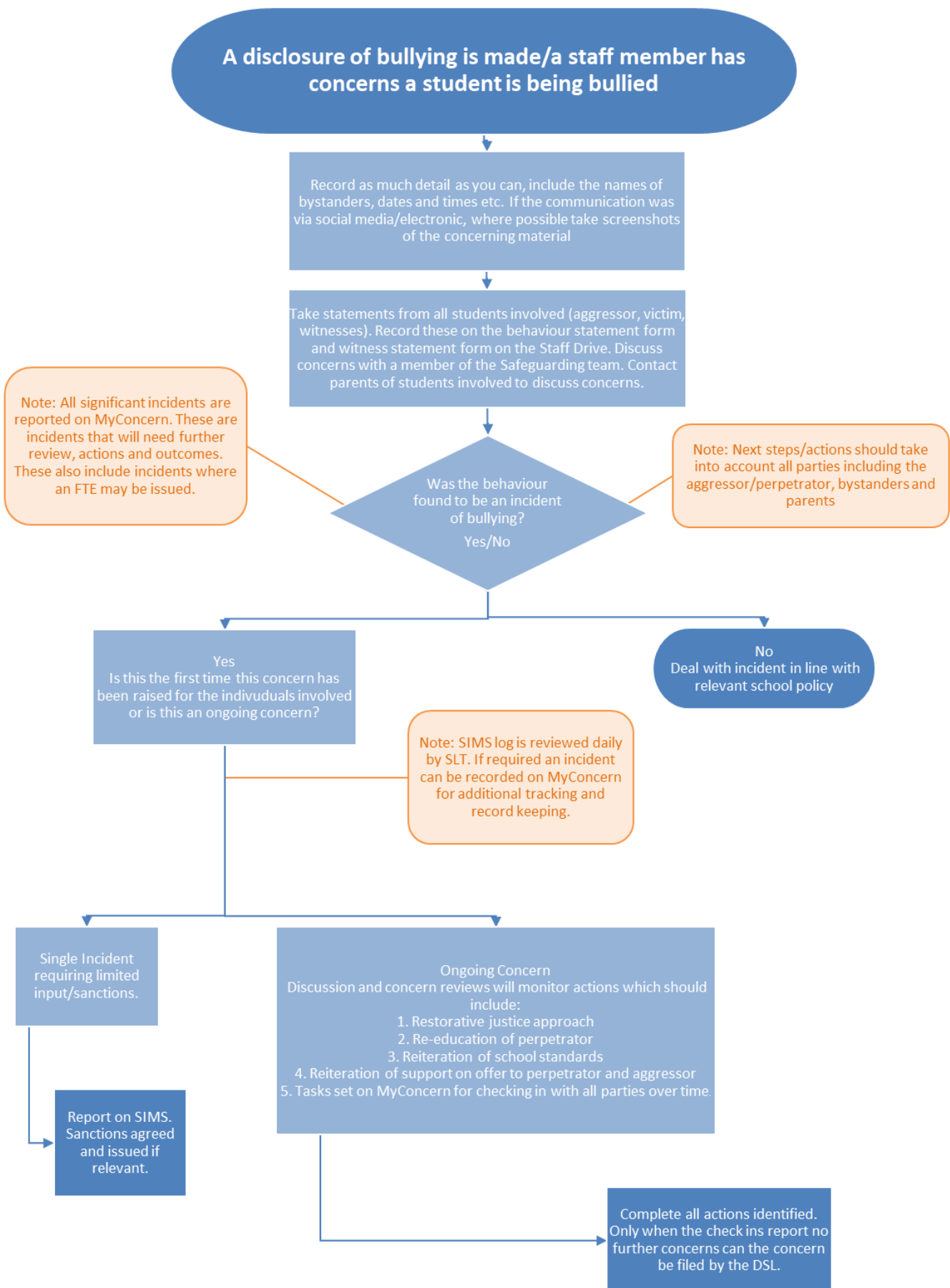
Appendix 2 and 3 provide the templates used to record investigations into bullying behaviours.

## Education and Training

As part of the PSHRE curriculum at Stanchester Academy students are educated on the issues of bullying. Assemblies and the tutorial programme also tackle these issues to continue to address the key messages. The Behaviour Manager is responsible for the delivery of PSHRE and the tutor programme helping to develop a whole academy approach to tackling bullying.

Whole staff and specific training is given. Staff are expected to lead by example demonstrating the positive values they wish to see in others.

Appendix 1 – Responding to a concern/disclosure of bullying flowchart



**Appendix 2 – Behaviour Statement Form**

Name	
Tutor Group	
Where did this incident happen?	
When did it happen?	
Who else was there?	
Details of incident	
Date and time statement taken	
Statement taken by?	

Appendix 3 – Witness Statement Form

# Stanchester Witness Statement

**Staff Name investigating-**

**Date and time of statement written-**

**Student Name-**

**Student Signed-**

**Date and time of incident-**

**Scribed (written for you)- Y or N (Please circle)**

**Who?...**

**When?...**

**Where?...**

**What?...**

**Why?...**