

Preventing and Responding to Bullying and Prejudice

A Guide for Parents and Carers

What is bullying?

Bullying is both behaviour and impact; what someone does and the impact it has on a person's capacity to feel in control of themselves. We call this their sense of 'agency'.

Bullying takes place in the context of relationships. It is behaviour that can make people feel hurt, threatened, frightened and left out and it can happen face to face and online

Bullying is not...

- Disagreements or falling out
- More serious behaviours, e.g. physical assault, sexual assault, sharing indecent images, theft, hate crime.

**If the behaviour is more serious,
we follow Child Protection or Risk Management procedures.**

Examples of bullying and prejudice-based behaviour

- Name-calling, teasing, mocking, put-downs
- Physical acts, e.g. pushing, kicking
- Spreading gossip, rumours, lies
- Stealing, hiding or damaging possessions
- Ignoring, excluding
- Threats
- Sending abusive messages or pictures on social media, online gaming platforms or phone

The language we use to talk about bullying and prejudice

We talk about:

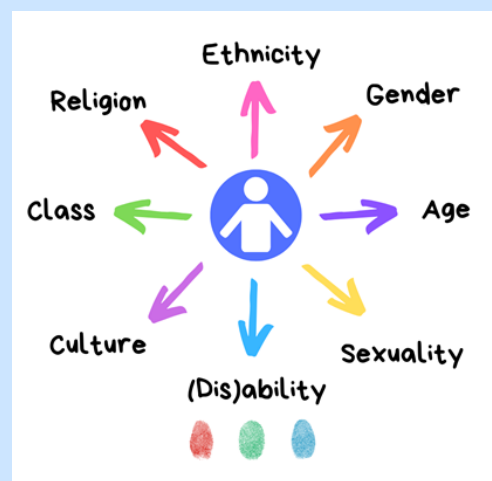
- Bullying behaviour
- The child experiencing bullying (not the 'victim')
- The child displaying bullying behaviour (not the 'perpetrator')

This is because we believe bullying behaviour can be temporary and can be changed.

Prejudice-based bullying

Bullying behaviour can be motivated by prejudice about a person's actual or perceived identity.

Examples are: racism, sexism, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, ableism and faith-based prejudice.



United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)



No child should be treated unfairly because of who they are, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are rich or poor, whether they are disabled or for any other reason. *(Article 2)*

All children have the right to be listened to and taken seriously. *(Article 12)*

All children have the right to an education. *(Article 28)*

Prevention

- We have clear procedures for dealing with bullying and prejudice
- Pupils, staff and parents and carers know what they are
- We promote equality and diversity
- We challenge stereotypes, bias, prejudice-based attitudes and language
- We build resilience and empathy
- We ask pupils, staff and parents for their views
- We are developing an inclusive, diverse and decolonised curriculum

Positive Relationships and Inclusion

We promote:

- Positive Relationships
- Resilience
- Restorative approaches
- Children's Rights



What do we do when a child is experiencing bullying?

- We listen to the child and reassure them
- We offer support and let them tell us what happened and how they feel
- We ask the child what could help
- We tell them we will act to stop the bullying
- We investigate, speaking with the children involved and any witnesses
- We speak with parents, after consultation with the child
- We seek advice when we need to
- We decide on appropriate actions
- If the behaviour is more serious, we follow Child Protection or Risk Management procedures



How do we work with pupils who bully others or who present prejudiced attitudes or behaviour?

- Pupils are treated fairly and consistently using actions that are proportionate and appropriate to the age and stage of the child and to the incident.
- We talk to the pupil(s) and listen to them
- We talk to anyone who witnessed what happened
- We reinforce the message that bullying and prejudice are not acceptable and must stop
- We address any prejudiced attitudes
- We ask for a commitment to stop the behaviour
- We consider consequences
- We consider supports the pupil needs
- We contact parents/carers
- We check to make sure the behaviour stops

Examples of possible actions

- Restorative conversations, if appropriate
- Peer mentoring and mediation
- Reducing opportunities for contact, where necessary and possible
- Consequences
- Assessment of additional support needs
- Referral to a support service, if appropriate
- Class or individual programme to address bullying and prejudice
- Involvement of parents/carers



What can I do if my child is experiencing bullying or prejudice?

Please talk to:

- Your child's class teacher
- Your child's Pupil Support Leader
- The school Equality Co-ordinator
- The Head teacher

We will listen.

We take bullying and prejudice seriously and will work to make it stop.

Policies, procedures and recording

Local Authority Procedure for Preventing and Responding to Bullying and Prejudice

[Bullying – The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

Every school has its own procedure, in line with the Authority procedure. See school websites.

Schools record and monitor incidents of bullying and prejudice-based behaviour, in line with national guidance.

Support, Advice, Complaints

If you have tried to resolve the issue with the school and need further support and advice, or wish to complain, you can contact the [Education Advice and Complaints Service](#)

Address: 1.1 Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG

Email: cf.complaints@edinburgh.gov.uk