



St. Leonard's Anti-Bullying Policy

Our Anti-Bullying Policy has been updated following the recent publication of Respect for All – The National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People in November 2024.

The policy is underpinned by the values of:

Children's rights, Fairness, Respect, Equality and Inclusion

It is echoed by the South Lanarkshire Council, Treat Me Well Anti-Bullying Guidance 2025 which applies to all SLC Education Establishments.

Bullying is a breach of Children's Rights

Every child has the right to be free from fear, discrimination, intimidation, harassment and social exclusion. When a child is bullied the following UNCRC rights are compromised:

- The right to protection from discrimination (article 2)
- The right to protection from all forms of violence, including physical or mental (article 19)
- The right to be listened to and taken seriously (article 12)
- I have the right to an education (article 28)

What is bullying?

South Lanarkshire Council and St. Leonard's Primary has adopted the updated definition of bullying as set out in 'Respect for All'.

"Bullying is face-to-face and/or online behaviour which impacts on a person's sense of physical and emotional safety, their capacity to feel in control of their life and their ability to respond effectively to the situation they are in.

"The behaviour does not need to be repeated, or intended to cause harm, for it to have an impact. Bullying behaviour can be physical, emotional or verbal and can cause people to feel hurt, threatened, frightened and left out."

Bullying behaviour can include the following.

- Being called names, teased, put down or threatened (face to face and/or online).
- Being hit, tripped, pushed or kicked.
- Having belongings taken or damaged.
- Being ignored, left out or having rumours spread about you (face-to-face and/or online).
- Sending abusive messages, pictures or images on social media, online gaming platforms or phones/tablets.
- Behaviour which makes people feel like they are not in control of themselves or their lives (face-to-face and/or online).
- Being targeted because of who you are or who you are perceived to be (face to face and/or online).
- Increasing the reach and impact of bullying or prejudice through the recruitment and/or involvement of a wider group.

However, while some of these behaviours may be reported or described by a child or young person, or their family, as bullying, it is important to recognise that not all such behaviour will be bullying or should appropriately be treated as such.

Digital rights and responsibilities

All children and young people are bound by the SLC IT acceptable user agreement. If any inappropriate online behaviour occurs on school issued devices, then use of such technology may be restricted.

School staff will not investigate any incidents outside of schools. However, as part of our health and wellbeing curriculum we include lessons on online safety, which makes children aware of online harms and how to keep themselves safe.

Please note that staff do not have statutory rights to search students and should **not** investigate the content of personal devices.

Responding to Bullying - Responsibilities and Expectations

Children and Young People

- Treat people with respect and show kindness towards others
- Speak up if you see anyone being treated unfairly
- Share concerns with peers/trusted adults

Our School Commitments

- Model positive relationships demonstrating respect and kindness in our daily practice and ethos
- Listen and support a child reporting concerns
- Respond quickly and fairly to concerns in line with the anti-bullying policy and procedure
- Use our professional judgement in deciding upon appropriate action based on the bullying behaviour
- Keep a record of bullying allegations and outcomes using pupil log/SEEMIS system in line with Treat Me Well SLC Anti-Bullying Guidance 2025
- Restorative practice for the child displaying bullying behaviour

Parents/carers

- Share concerns about your child as early as possible with the class teacher or senior leadership team
- Be aware of the anti-bullying policies and practice in our school
- Work collaboratively with the school to help ensure bullying cannot thrive
- Understand when a situation is bullying or not as falling out/conflict with others is not uncommon

Reporting, Recording and Monitoring

To ensure that children and young people are listened to and their concerns are recognised, we encourage our children to feel confident and safe in discussing any worries with a trusted adult.

Once a concern or report of bullying is made then a note of this will be made using our internal paperwork and the SEEMiS system. An investigation into the incident would take place and outcome of this investigation be determined, recorded and reported on.

SEEMiS uses the terminology *person experiencing bullying behaviour* and *person displaying bullying behaviour*. The terminology has been chosen to avoid labelling children and young people and allow the focus to be on behaviour that needs to change.

Following any bullying allegations or concerns then we will continue to support all parties and monitor the situation.

Policy Review - This policy will be reviewed every three years.