

Stane Primary School and Nursery Class



Anti-Bullying Policy

Updated January 2024



1. Rationale

Stane Primary School has a clearly defined Anti-bullying Strategy, in accordance with the Scottish Government policy "A National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Children and Young People" (2010), and the North Lanarkshire Council policy "Bullying: It's Never Acceptable" (2012).

Under "Getting It Right for Every Child", we deploy our Anti-Bullying strategy in order to ensure the wellbeing of every child in our care, especially in relation to their safety and inclusion. We aim for all our pupils to understand our Anti-Bullying message in the context of respect for each other's rights under the UNCRC.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Positive Relationships and Behaviour Policy, which lays out the procedures the school employs in order to promote and maintain high standards of behaviour.

This policy will outline a shared definition and understanding of Bullying; the processes for reporting, investigating and recording of bullying behaviour; and the staged intervention approach that the school will follow in its response to allegations of bullying.

2. Definition of Bullying

Bullying is when someone or a group of people making fun or physically hurting them. It can be directly at them or behind there back. This could be about their style, the way they look or act. Bullying can go on for a while, but one thing can make an impact. There are many ways of bullying. Cyber bullying is one. It is when people are made fun of online. Even if they laugh or take it as a joke, but can still make an impact. The effects of bullying can last a lifetime.

Definition by the pupils of SPS, January 2022

Respect Me Definition of Bullying



Bullying is both behaviour and impact; what someone does and the impact it has on the other 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 behaviour can harm people physically or emotionally and, although the actual behaviour might not be repeated, the threat that it might can be sustained over time, typically by actions: looks, messages, confrontations, physical interventions, or the fear of these. This behaviour can include:

- 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 phone
- Behaviour which makes people feel like they are not in control of themselves or their lives

Being targeted because of who you are or who you are perceived to be (face to face and/or online)

Intent is not required in order to confirm an incident as Bullying, as in some circumstances a child may not be aware that their behaviour is bullying. The focus is on the impact the behaviour has had, rather than whether or not the person acted deliberately to cause harm. Bullying does not have to be **persistent** in order to have an impact on a child's wellbeing. A single incident can have an effect on mental health, confidence, and self-esteem. Bullying can affect children in different ways, and Stane Primary School will take account of the effect this is having on an individual child, in order to reduce the **impact** and restore the child's ability to cope and respond to the feelings they are having.

3. When it's Not Bullying

Children will inevitably fall out and disagree as they learn how to form and maintain relationships. It is important that children learn how to manage conflict as positively as possible, as this helps them to learn about cooperation and develops their resilience. In such cases the school can be a source of support for children in repairing relationships. This would be managed. Bullying is when a person (or a group of people) behaves in a way that is unkind or abusive towards another, or excludes them. It can be direct, or in-direct. Bullying can be physical, verbal or emotional. It is sometimes a result of prejudices about people's differences. Bullying can be persistent, but even one incident can have an impact. It is still bullying even if it is not intentional, because it still has an impact. Definition by the pupils of SPS, January 2018 by involving the children in restorative conversations with their peers, mediated by an adult or perhaps a trained peer mediator. It is important to be mindful that if such behaviour is left unchecked, it can lead to bullying. Disagreements can lead to bullying behaviour where the balance of power in the relationship is unequal, for example an older child to a much younger child, or a group of children falling out with or excluding one child.

4. Prejudice Based Bullying

Bullying behaviour can be a result of prejudices relating to actual or perceived differences. The Equality Act 2010 makes it illegal to discriminate against people based on characteristics including:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender
- Race
- Religion
- Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity

The school aims to create an environment where diversity is celebrated, and any behaviour demonstrating discrimination based on any of the above characteristics is deemed unacceptable. This becomes criminal harassment,

rather than Bullying, and such cases would be referred to our Community Police Officer to determine the best course of action.

In a digital age, Bullying behaviour can also take place online. This will normally take place outside of school, where children have access to social media. This behaviour may still be reported at school, and the management team would refer to matter to the children's parents. The school would strongly advise that parents adhere to the minimum age guidelines on social media use. More guidance on this can be found at www.respectme.org.uk

5. Reporting of Bullying

Behaviour Children sign an Anti-Bullying Contract at the start of each school year, where they show their commitment to making Stane Primary a bully-free school, and to reporting bullying if they experience it or witness it both online and in person. In the majority of bullying incidents, there are other children present who witness the events. The school aims to create an environment in which all children feel confident in reporting any form of bullying behaviour, and understand how to report what they have seen. Children must also be taught what to report, how, when and to whom.

- What? Children are involved in the creation of a shared definition of Bullying for our policy, so that they recognise Bullying behaviour when they see, or experience it. The school also displays an "Is it Bullying?" checklist in all classes, to support children in deciding what must be reported. Children are also taught how to identify and report cyber bullying through the North Lanarkshire Technologies Pathway.
- How? A "Tell Me" box is located in each classroom and at the main office, and children know that they can write a note to place in the box which will be checked by staff on a daily basis. Children also know that they can approach a member of staff, or a trusted adult outside of school, in order to report bullying.
- When? An important part of the message for children is that they should not wait to see whether things get better. They must report any instances of bullying behaviour, as soon as possible after it occurs. This also includes taking screenshots of online incidents. Behaviour does not need to be persistent in order to be bullying, one incident is enough to merit reporting.

- Who? Children know that they can report bullying to any member of school staff, however any allegations of bullying will be passed to a member of the school management team to investigate.

6. Investigation of Bullying Allegations

The school management team take responsibility for investigating all allegations of bullying promptly. This will involve taking testimonies from all children involved or who may have witnessed the incident. The school has an investigation template which all senior staff follow, in order to ensure that information is gathered thoroughly and consistently, and a record of the incident is formed.

Should the incident not prove to be Bullying, it will be dealt with using the school Positive Relationships Policy, and parents will be informed as deemed appropriate by the school management team.

If the incident is substantiated as Bullying, the school will follow the stages of intervention outlined below.

7. School Response to Bullying

Following investigation, Stane Primary School will respond to substantiated incidents of Bullying using a staged intervention approach. In all cases, a balance will be struck between supportive actions and sanctions as deemed appropriate. At each stage, the school will make reference to the rights of all children under the UNCRC.

Stage 1

- Make clear that the type of behaviour being exhibited is totally unacceptable, utilising the school behaviour management scheme as appropriate.
- Work with the person showing bullying behaviour to make them aware of the impact of their actions on others, improve their behaviour and prevent a recurrence.
- Offer the opportunity for both children to attend a mediation meeting with a member of the school management team, where they can suggest their own solutions to resolve conflict or improve relationships.

- Continue to monitor and support the person being bullied to assess the impact on their emotional wellbeing.
- Inform parents of the incident and any action taken, seeking to work in partnership to prevent a recurrence of the bullying behaviours.
- Utilise school-based nurturing approaches to support the children where appropriate.
- Temporary removal from the class Teams page. Child can regain access after a conversation surround acceptable online use.

Stage 2

For more severe incidents, involving physical violence, or for incidents that have recurred despite Stage 1 support strategies being employed.

- Any actions from Stage 1 that may not yet have been taken
- Daily behaviour/ target sheet for person demonstrating bullying behaviour
- Mentoring or buddying system
- Social skills or "Circle of Friends" group
- Involvement of other agencies as appropriate, for example Educational Psychology
- Solution-focused meeting with school staff, pupil parents and Community Police Officer
- Permanent removal from the class Teams page. In time, child may regain access after engaging in learning surrounding the effects of cyber bullying.

Stage 3

In extreme cases such as physical attacks and ongoing harassment both online and in person, a young person showing bullying behaviour may be excluded from school. Stage 1 and Stage 2 strategies may still apply upon their return to school, in order to support the pupil and prevent a recurrence.

8. Recording of bullying

All allegations of bullying are recorded on SEEMIS, (North Lanarkshire Council's online Education Management Information System) in accordance with local authority guidelines. Incidents are to be recorded within three days of the investigation being completed. The school management team will also record actions taken, and any opinions expressed by the parents.

Where other agencies are involved, this will mean sharing of information about the incident. Parents' permission will be sought in such cases, unless the school is required to provide information as part of a police investigation or a child protection case under social work.

9. Involvement of Parents

Parents have a key role to play in supporting their children when they have experienced bullying or have bullied other children. At Stane Primary School we aim to involve parents in all aspects of our Anti-Bullying strategy. Parents will be informed at the earliest stage of a bullying investigation. The school has an Anti-Bullying information booklet for parents, which will be provided to parents when their child is involved in a bullying incident, and is also available at any time via our school website.

Any meetings between parents and the school management team are conducted with complete confidentiality, and we will never discuss personal information about a child with other parents.

Parents can access a training module on Anti-Bullying, which contains suggestions on how best to support your child and what advice to give. This can be accessed at www.respectme.org.uk

10. Complaints or Comments We welcome feedback from parents, however if you are not satisfied with the way in which an allegation of bullying has been dealt with by the school, please raise this in the first instance with the Head Teacher. Your concern will be investigated and you will be informed of the action (if any) that is to be taken in at least 5 days but no longer than 28 days. If you are unhappy with action taken by the school you may choose to direct your concern to NLC Education and Families.

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