



## **My child feels bullied at school.**

### **1. What should I do next?**

It is important to report any bullying behaviour to the school. Bullying behaviour can be reported to any member of school staff by a child or adult, either verbally or in writing.

### **2. What can I expect to happen after reporting the bullying behaviour?**

You should expect that any staff member will listen, showing respect, care and a commitment to improve the situation.

It is likely an initial meeting will be arranged with you, involving either the class teacher, Depute or Headteacher.

Your child's views and feelings will also be gathered by chatting one-to-one with an agreed teacher – either the class teacher or the Headteacher/Depute Headteacher.

A plan will then be agreed to help your child feel better and happier at school and you can ask for a written copy of any planning.

The school will also contact the parents of the other child who has been making your child feel frightened, hurt, isolated etc.

The views and feelings of the other child will also be gathered on a one-to-one basis with either the class teacher or the Headteacher/Depute Headteacher. Separate planning will then be agreed - see school guidance section "*It has been reported to school that another child has felt bullied by my child*" on pages 3 & 4

### **3. How will the school stop my child from feeling bullied?**

By implementing the plan agreed between you and school. Where possible, the plan will be specific in timescales, allowing opportunities for review and modifications.

#### **4. What will happen to the other child?**

While individual planning around any child, other than your own, is not shared, the school will be consistent throughout the process in using positive relationship approaches which are based on nurture and inclusion, as well as clearly understood boundaries and expectations.

All agreed planning will be supportive, based on the needs of the individual child. For more complex cases, other professionals or agencies may be invited to form a team around the child in order to give the most effective support.

#### **5. What support is available for me and my child?**

For agreed time limited periods, a range of approaches could be agreed depending on the individual situation. Common approaches include:

- Closer adult supervision
- Allocated areas in the playground for your child, away from the other child.
- Regular check-in by a key staff member of staff with your child.

The Scottish Government guidance, ***Respect for All: national approach to anti-bullying***, describes how important respectful, positive relationships are in making sure bullying behaviour cannot thrive. You and your child may find the following links helpful -

[Visit the Scottish Government website](#)

[Stirling's Approach to Respect for All](#)

<https://respectme.org.uk/>

#### **6. How will the children be supported to rebuild relationships?**

Our school values, ethos and curriculum is aimed at developing resilience and confidence so that pupils can deal more successfully when relationship problems arise.

Friendships can and do repair when school and parents work positively together in a spirit of trust and respect to support the children involved.

#### **7. What happens next if the parent/child feels the incident has not been dealt with appropriately - where can they seek further help?**

The review stages of any agreed planning provides an opportunity to report if bullying behaviours are continuing. By agreement, you as parents and our school might decide to widen the team around your child.

Bullying behaviour established without progress from early intervention, will be recorded on school Seemis system in line with Stirling Council's Respect for All Policy.

If parents are unhappy with the processes which the school has used to resolve the bullying behaviours then Stirling Council's complaints system can be accessed in the ways shown below –

Phone 01786 40 40 40

Email [educ-comments@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:educ-comments@stirling.gov.uk)

[www.stirling.gov.uk](http://www.stirling.gov.uk)

# **It has been reported to school that another child has felt bullied by my child.**

## ***1) What can I expect to happen next?***

This depends on the situation. Two different examples are provided below:

### Example A

Another child might use the term 'bullying' when describing to a staff member, an argument with a friend that day. Using the knowledge of individual children and their peer relationships, disagreements can often be resolved by simply talking the situation through with an adult, who will listen/ offer an idea/ pose a question/make a link to a school value etc. Staff will monitor relationships, looking out for a pattern of difficulties which will result in them speaking with the Headteacher/Depute Headteacher. Teacher contact to the parent would only happen after consultation with the Headteacher/Depute Headteacher. Contact may be phone or arranging to pop into the school.

### Example B

The parent of another child contacts the Headteacher/Depute Headteacher that their child is being bullied, naming another child.

After meeting with the parent who has reported bullying behaviour towards their child, the Headteacher or Depute Headteacher contact the parent of the other child. A discussion by telephone or face to face meeting will be arranged, where the purpose is to provide detail of the bullying allegation to the parent, gather their views and work positively together to agree on the next steps. A further meeting/discussion will normally be arranged to review progress.

The following questions are based on situations similar to Example B above.

## ***2) Will my child be spoken to about the situation?***

Yes. It is always important to gather all views. It would be important that part of the agreed next steps include the Headteacher/Depute Headteacher speaking with your child. The purpose of this is to gather their views and perspective but also to think about how their actions may have impacted on the child who feels bullied - this might include being frightened, hurt or made to feel isolated or lonely etc.

## ***3) What will happen if my child has been bullying the child?***

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. If your child's actions or behaviours means that another child is feeling frightened, hurt, isolated etc. then a plan will be coordinated by the school to help the other child feel better and happier at school - this will be done in partnership with that child and their parents/carers.

A separate plan for the other child will also be agreed, involving the child and their parents/carers. Bullying behaviour established without progress from early intervention, will be recorded on school Seemis system in line with Stirling Council's Respect for All Policy.

All agreed plans are time limited and will be reviewed.

All agreed plans are recorded by the school on a pastoral notes/chronology basis.

Where planning around relationships and bullying behaviours are still in place at key points of transition including moving to a new class/teacher i.e. within the primary stages and P7 to S1, then a transfer of information process will include sharing of information to ensure a smooth transition.

#### **4) *What support is available for me and my child?***

All agreed planning will be supportive, based on the needs of the individual child. For more complex cases, other professionals or agencies will be invited to form a team around the child in order to give the most effective support.

#### **5) *What will happen if there is found to be no bullying behaviour?***

Any child's feelings of being bullied are valid and should be respected. All behaviour communicates feelings. Bullying doesn't need to be persistent to have an effect on the mental health and well-being of a child.

After investigation by the school, it may be that further supportive planning is required only for the child who has felt bullied.

Our school values, ethos and curriculum is aimed at developing resilience and confidence so that pupils can deal more successfully when relationship problems arise.

The initial planning around the child accused of bullying will already have been reviewed between school, the child and their parents.

#### **6) *How will the children be supported to overcome any friendship issues?***

The school will be consistent throughout the process in using positive relationship approaches which are based on nurture and inclusion as well as clearly understood boundaries and expectations.

Friendships can and do repair when school and parents work positively together in a spirit of trust and respect to support the children involved.