

# Anti-Bullying Policy



**THE LADDER SCHOOL**  
Redefining alternative provision



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| Date of Creation (first edition)           | September 2018   |
| Date for Review                            | October 2023   |
| Date posted on website                     | December 2020  |
| Policy updates and amendments              | See Version Control  |
| Member of staff responsible for the policy | Vice Principal   |
| Date adopted by the Local Governing Body   | December 2020  |
| Signed by Principal                        |  |
| Signed by Chair of Governing Body          |   |



## Version Control

| Version | Author | Date       | Changes Made                       |
|---------|--------|------------|------------------------------------|
| 1.0     | CB     | Sept 2018  | First Edition                      |
| 1.1     | RW     | April 2020 | Changes to present tense           |
| 1.2     | RW     | Nov 2020   |                                    |
| 1.3     | RW     | Sept 2021  | Review and additional policy added |
| 1.4     | RW     | Sept 2022  | Review                             |

## Mission Statement

The Ladder School is a safe, well ordered and caring environment for learning. It delivers high quality education to all its students and supports them to develop their individual potential for growth, self-worth and self-control.

High quality outstanding teaching, and clear and consistent guidance and support facilitates students in succeeding in education. Our broad and balanced academic and vocational curriculum will provide students with access to a broad range of accredited qualifications as well as educational and social experiences, which will address their learning and emotional needs. Our purpose is to support every student to develop their true potential, make positive contributions to their families and find fulfilment in employment.

## Values

1. Alternative Provision doesn't mean a dumping ground...it's mainstream with the reasonable adjustments to succeed
2. High standards and high expectations are incredibly important and are the corner stones to a successful school
3. The Ladder School should become the go-to place for educators from across the country to see best practice
4. Good simply isn't good enough
5. Learning is about a journey and there is more than one way to get to the destination
6. Qualifications, manners, respect and opportunity should be the foundations for students that need a second chance.

## School Ethos



**High Standards**



**Daring to Dream**



**Traditional Values**



**Success**



**Personalised Support**



High standards – students are pushed to achieve beyond their potential, and staff work to ensure everything that we do is better than people expect.

Daring to Dream – students at The Ladder School may have been in an educational setting where they lacked aspiration to be successful, at The Ladder School we challenge students to reach their potential and go on to further education and employment.

Traditional Values – some things often get forgotten in education, at The Ladder School we pride ourselves on mutual respect, good manners, making a positive contribution, supporting one another and an orderly, litter free environment.

Success – can come in many virtues, at The Ladder School we celebrate the small steps every day and tell students when they are doing well. We ensure that students can have a successful future.

Personalised Support - all students at The Ladder School have a Learning Coach who guides them, sets them bespoke targets and supports them in making social and academic progress.

## **Statement of Purpose**

At The Ladder School our intention is that students come to school feeling happy, safe and able to reach their potential. We intend to do this by developing a school culture where discrimination is viewed as unacceptable, people are able to talk about their differences and we are able to work collaboratively to ensure that bullying doesn't take place.

## **The Ladder School Attitude**

Anti-social behaviour of any kind is unacceptable at The Ladder School. If bullying does occur it will be dealt with promptly, therefore we are an informing school. We expect anyone who has witnessed or has been the victim of bullying to talk to an adult straight away. Our anti bullying policy has close links with our safeguarding policy and ensuring everyone keeps themselves safe online and behaves in an appropriate way.

## **Objectives of the Policy**

The Ladder School will;

1. Agree a definition of bullying that is used by all staff and students, this will enable all parents and our partners to understand our view on bullying
2. Raise awareness of different forms of bullying and advise students on how to avoid becoming the victim of bullying
3. Develop positive relationships amongst our students



4. Reduce and even eradicate instances of bullying in any form
5. Ensure that all staff, parents, students and governors fulfil their part in the implementation of this policy
6. Support staff and students following an incident of bullying and re-educate those who were the cause of the bullying
7. Ensure fair treatment of all regardless of their age, culture, disability, gender, religion or sexuality and encourage understanding and tolerance of different social, religious and cultural backgrounds.

## Definition

Bullying is 'the use of persistent aggression whether verbal, physical or cyber with the intention of hurting or humiliating another person, whether it be student or staff.'

Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim. Bullying can take the following forms;

- Verbal – insults, nasty comments, name calling, sarcasm
- Physical – pushing and shoving, kicking and other physical damage to a person or their belongings
- Indirect – peer pressure, rumour spreading, isolation, gossiping behind the target's back
- Emotional – cruel behaviour intended to be hurtful, exploiting what was learned in a close friendship for example
- Cyber – via mobiles or any electronic device, misuse of messaging, comments or images, chatrooms, threats, calls or videos

Bullying can be prejudice driven, associated with views about;

- Race, religion and culture
- Gender
- Disability
- Sexual orientation eg: (homophobia)
- Appearance

## Procedure for Parents/Carers

The Ladder School wants to work in partnership with parents and carers. It is important that they trust we will act in their child's best interest to resolve an issue. If you feel that your child is being bullied, we ask that you contact school and ask to speak to their Learning Coach or Vice Principal.

We also ask parents/carers to do the following;

- Remind their child about the importance of appropriate behaviour
- Never endorse violence towards others
- Remind their child about the issues surrounding social media
- Report any issues to school that are of a concern to you
- Uphold The Ladder School Anti Bullying Policy.



If you suspect that your child is being bullied, please do the following;

- Talk to your child to try and understand the problem
- Contact school and speak to your child's Learning Coach.

School will investigate any issues reported in a timely manner and feedback the findings to parents/carers.

## Symptoms of Bullying

It is everyone's role to look out for signs that a child might be being bullied, we ask all parents and staff to be vigilant with this. A student that is suffering from being bullied may exhibit some or all of the following symptoms;

- Becomes concerned about travelling to and from school
- Is unwilling to go to school or begins to truant or feels ill in the morning
- Has changes in attitude, behaviour or manner
- Changes in behaviour for example becomes withdrawn, anxious, aggressive or has a loss of personality
- Withdraws from social groups and isolates themselves
- Threatens or attempts suicide or runs away
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- Begins to do poorly in school work
- Has possessions, including clothes, which are damaged or "go missing"
- Asks for money or starts stealing money
- Loses money or says money has been lost
- Has unexplained marks or bruises
- Is bullying other children or siblings
- Stops eating
- Starts to lose confidence
- Is frightened to say what's wrong
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above or is not forthcoming with responses
- Is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- Is nervous and jumpy when a cyber message is received

These symptoms could also indicate other issues, so it is vital that any concerns are raised immediately.

## Procedure for Students

- Report the bullying to any member of staff as soon as possible
- Be willing to work with staff at school to stop the bullying from happening, this might include a range of approaches to address the issue
- All serious incidents of bullying will be recorded on your school file to make other staff aware on any situations that happened
- The bullies may ask to apologise, school promotes reconciliation



- Understand that staff won't discuss other students' sanctions, but they will inform the victim when they feel the situation is resolved
- Understand that school will discuss the issues with the parents/carers
- In cases of serious incidents, the police might be called upon for advice or to deal with the complaint
- School will work with the bully to address their behaviour and to try to change it.
- Situations will be monitored to ensure that there is not a re-occurrence, if something else happens it is important to report it straight away

When an incident of bullying has taken place, it will be monitored and recorded, and staff will risk assess whether or not anything at school needs to change as a result of the incident.

In order to assess how effective this policy is, school staff will use bullying data to judge how many incidents have taken place and the school's effectiveness at dealing with those incidents. School will also use the information to look for trends that might need to be addressed in Skills Sessions with students.

### **Actions to Prevent Bullying**

- The Ladder School has an "Open Door" policy where, students, staff and parents can speak to someone to discuss an issue that concerns them.
- The Ladder School will conduct restorative work between the bully and victim with the aim to try and eradicate instances of bullying re-occurring.
- Skills sessions and assemblies will address issues around bullying to raise awareness that The Ladder School doesn't tolerate bullying.
- Staff and the Local Governing Body review incidents of bullying to ensure that they have been dealt with appropriately and to look for trends to address certain behaviours within the school community.
- To conduct student voice specifically in relation to bullying and safety.

### **Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence**

The Ladder School takes any report of sexual harassment or sexual violence incredibly seriously. All staff are trained and aware of different forms of abuse including child-on-child abuse. The Designated Safeguarding Lead in school will advise staff on how to proceed if an incident of this nature is witnessed or reported. Staff will work with the victim and take their lead on how they would like the matter dealt with. School will consider some specific factors when making the decision on how to deal with the incident, but there will be ongoing support for any victim. Any incident in relation to sexual harassment or sexual violence will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

### **Who this policy is for**



Students, staff and visitors are covered under the guidance of this policy. The school treats incidents of staff bullying extremely seriously, and they will be dealt with through the school disciplinary procedures.

## Prevention and Celebrating difference

The Ladder School will use different methods to help prevent bullying and raise awareness of bullying within school. At The Ladder School we celebrate a culture of difference and we aim to educate others that diversity is what makes the world a great place.

The school will use national awareness days in our activities, particularly in our Skills Sessions and assembly to celebrate difference and educate against discrimination.

The policy is a live document and is reviewed annually, but if you have any comments on the policy, please e-mail the school office on [info@ladderschool.org](mailto:info@ladderschool.org) where they will be shared with the Principal.

The policy is on our school website and we encourage everyone who belongs to The Ladder School to read this policy. Staff and students alike will contribute to the formulation of this policy in activities throughout the school year.

This policy is inline with

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1101454/Keeping\\_children\\_safe\\_in\\_education\\_2022.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1101454/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2022.pdf)

## For further help and support

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)  
Children's Legal Centre  
Parentline Plus  
Youth Access  
Bullying Online  
KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Weekdays, 10am-4pm)

0808 800 5793  
0845 345 4345  
0808 800 2222  
020 8772 9900  
[www.bullying.co.uk](http://www.bullying.co.uk)  
0845 1 205 204  
[www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk)

