



The PGS Anti-Bullying Policy

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1. Introduction

The Portsmouth Grammar School is committed to fostering a spirit of mutual trust between pupils and staff and to creating and sustaining a friendly, supportive, safe and structured environment in which pupils develop confidence and self-esteem and in which they show consideration for the dignity of others.

2. Aims

- 2.1 This is the anti-bullying policy of The Portsmouth Grammar School (**School**).
- 2.2 The aims of this policy are:
 - 2.2.1 to actively promote and safeguard the welfare of pupils at the School;
 - 2.2.2 to maintain and drive a positive and supportive culture among all pupils and staff throughout the School;
 - 2.2.3 to prevent bullying, detect it when it occurs, and respond to it appropriately on a case-by-case basis;
 - 2.2.4 to encourage pupils to tell someone if they or others are being bullied; and
 - 2.2.5 to promote a restorative programme for those who have displayed bullying behaviours.

3. Scope and application

- 3.1 This policy applies to the whole School including the Early Years Foundation Stage (**EYFS**). References to a **pupil** or **pupils** are references to a learner or learners aged 2 to 19 who receive their education at the School; where reference is made or intended to be made to a child or children who receive their education at the School, this will include those aged 2 to 19.
- 3.2 This policy applies at all times when the pupil is:
 - 3.2.1 in or at School;
 - 3.2.2 representing the School or wearing School uniform;
 - 3.2.3 travelling to or from School;
 - 3.2.4 on School-organised trips;
 - 3.2.5 associated with the School at any time;
 - 3.2.6 in the care of the School or not and the School becomes aware of an incident of bullying.
- 3.3 This policy shall also apply to pupils at all times and places in circumstances where failing to apply this policy may:
 - 3.3.1 affect the health, safety or well-being of a member of the School community or a member of the public;
 - 3.3.2 have repercussions for the orderly running of the School; or
 - 3.3.3 bring the School into disrepute.

4. Regulatory framework

- 4.1 This policy has been prepared to meet the School's responsibilities under:

- 4.1.1 Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014;
- 4.1.2 Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (DfE, September 2025);
- 4.1.3 Education and Skills Act 2008;
- 4.1.4 Children Act 1989;
- 4.1.5 Childcare Act 2006;
- 4.1.6 Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR); and
- 4.1.7 Equality Act 2010.

4.2 This policy has regard to the following guidance and advice:

- 4.2.1 Preventing and tackling bullying: Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies (DfE, July 2017);
- 4.2.2 Cyberbullying: advice for headteachers and school staff (DfE, November 2014);
- 4.2.3 <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/human-rights/human-rights-tracker/harassment-and-bullying-schools-uk-government-action>;
- 4.2.4 Working together to safeguard children (HM Government, 2026, or latest version) (WTSC);
- 4.2.5 Keeping children safe in education (DfE, September 2025, or latest version) (KCSIE); and
- 4.2.6 Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools (DfE, July 2023).

4.3 The following School policies, procedures and resource materials are relevant to this policy:

- 4.3.1 The PGS Behaviour and Relationships Policy;
- 4.3.2 The PGS Exclusion Policy;
- 4.3.3 The PGS ICT Acceptable Use Policy for Pupils (AUP) (Senior and Junior School);
- 4.3.4 The PGS Online Safety Policy;
- 4.3.5 The PGS Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedure (this and a number of other key policies can be found on the following link: <https://www.pgs.org.uk/key-information/school-policies>);
- 4.3.6 The PGS Smoking, Alcohol, Drugs and Substances Policy; and
- 4.3.7 The PGS Additional Educational Needs (AEN) and Disabilities Policy.

5. Responsibility statement and allocation of tasks

- 5.1 The Governing Body has overall responsibility for all matters which are the subject of this policy.
- 5.2 To ensure the efficient discharge of its responsibilities under this policy, the Governing Body has allocated tasks according to the table in Appendix 2.

6. Publication and availability

- 6.1 This policy is published on the School website.
- 6.2 This policy is available in hard copy on request.
- 6.3 A copy of the policy is available for inspection from the School Office during the School day.

- 6.4 This policy can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required.

7. Definitions

- 7.1 Where the following words or phrases are used in this policy:
- 7.1.1 References to the Head may include as appropriate the Head of the Junior School, the Pre-School Lead and/or Deputy Heads.
 - 7.1.2 References to Parent or Parents includes one or both of the parents, a legal guardian or education guardian.

8. Bullying

- 8.1 Bullying is always unacceptable and will not be dismissed as being normal or as "banter" or simply "part of growing up".
- 8.2 All members of the PGS community have the right to remain free from bullying or the fear of bullying. All members are free to be able to report any concerns related to bullying in the certain knowledge that those concerns will be listened to and the matter investigated by those competent to do so. Those who report an incident of bullying or suspected bullying will be able to do so in safety.
- 8.3 Every member of the School can expect to be treated with respect, dignity and tolerance irrespective of their religious beliefs, sexuality, ethnic background, aptitude or disability. No victim should ever be made to feel ashamed.
- 8.4 Pupils are expected to treat others as they would wish to be treated themselves.
- 8.5 Members of the School community have both an individual and collective obligation to report any incident of bullying whenever or wherever it might occur, and have a right to expect that appropriate action will be taken to prevent its repetition.
- 8.6 Those who bully should be aware that a zero tolerance approach will always be taken; this may include help and an anti-bullying restorative programme.
- 8.7 Bullying will not be tolerated by the School because:
- 8.7.1 it is harmful to the person who is bullied, to those who engage in bullying behaviour, and those who support them;
 - 8.7.2 it interferes with a pupil's right to enjoy their learning and leisure time free from intimidation;
 - 8.7.3 it is contrary to all our aims and values, our internal culture and the reputation of the School.
- 8.8 Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Such behaviour might be repeated or persistent. Bullying is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups and includes child-on-child abuse. Bullying may be:
- 8.8.1 **Physical:** hitting, kicking, pushing people around, spitting, or taking, damaging or hiding possessions
 - 8.8.2 **Verbal:** name-calling, taunting, teasing, insulting or demanding money
 - 8.8.3 **Exclusionary behaviour:** intimidating, isolating or excluding a person from a group

- 8.8.4 **General unkindness:** spreading rumours or writing unkind notes, mobile phone texts or emails;
- 8.8.5 **Low level disruptive behaviour:** wearing "banter" and "horseplay" over a prolonged period of time;
- 8.8.6 **Cyberbullying:** bullying that takes place using technology. This may include bullying through the use of mobile electronic devices, social media or gaming sites. See Appendix 1 to this policy for guidance for pupils about cyberbullying. The PGS Acceptable Use Policy for Pupils sets out the School rules about the use of technology including mobile electronic devices.
- 8.8.7 **Harmful sexual behaviours:** includes sexual harassment and sexual violence:
 - (a) **sexual harassment:** unwanted conduct of a sexual nature that can occur online and offline. It can include but is not limited to:
 - (i) sexual jokes or taunting;
 - (ii) physical behaviour such as deliberately brushing against someone, interfering with their clothes, displaying pictures, photos or drawings of a sexual nature;
 - (iii) online sexual harassment which may include: non-consensual sharing of intimate images and cyberflashing; inappropriate sexual comments on social media; exploitation; coercion and threats (all now criminal offences under the Online Safety Act 2023);
 - (iv) Incidences of sexual harassment will be investigated to ensure they are not part of a wider pattern of sexual harassment and / or sexual violence.
 - (b) **sexual violence:** sexual offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, specifically rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault. Incidents of sexual abuse outside of school will be treated by the School in the same way as those occurring within school.
- 8.9 Bullying may also be:
 - 8.9.1 sexist: related to a person's sex or gender reassignment;
 - 8.9.2 racist, or regarding someone's religion, belief or culture;
 - 8.9.3 related to a person's sexual orientation (homophobic bullying) or gender identity (transphobic bullying);
 - 8.9.4 related to pregnancy and maternity;
 - 8.9.5 related to a person's home circumstances; or
 - 8.9.6 related to a person's disability, special educational needs, learning difficulty, health or appearance.
- 8.10 Not all bullying is deliberate or intended to hurt. Some individuals may see their hurtful conduct as "teasing" or "a game" or "for the good of" the other person. These forms of bullying are equally unacceptable but may not be malicious and can often be corrected quickly with advice and without disciplinary sanctions. However, if left unchallenged or dismissed, low level disruption of this type can have a wearing, and significant impact on targeted individuals exposed to such behaviour.
- 8.11 A person who makes a physical or sexual assault on another, or who steals or causes damage to the property of another, commits a criminal offence, to which a zero tolerance approach

will be adopted. Bullying may also be regarded as threatening behaviour or harassment which can be either a criminal offence or a civil wrong. Misuse of electronic communications could also be a criminal offence – for example, it is an offence to send an electronic communication (such as a text message or email) to another person with the intent to cause distress or anxiety.

8.12 Safeguarding

- 8.12.1 Some behaviour by a pupil towards another may be of such a nature that safeguarding concerns are raised. Such behaviour may include bullying (including child-on-child abuse, cyberbullying and prejudice-based bullying), causing physical harm, initiation / hazing type violence (a ritual imposed on a person who wants to join a group) and rituals, sexting or any form of sexual harassment or violence.
- 8.12.2 The School's policy and procedures with regard to child-on-child abuse are set out in the PGS Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedure. Concerns about a pupil's welfare because they are the victim or perpetrator of bullying behaviour must be reported in accordance with the PGS Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedure and appropriate action taken, taking into account the Local Safeguarding Partners' threshold document.
- 8.12.3 The School will always treat a bullying incident as giving rise to a child protection concern when there is reasonable cause to believe that a child (whether victim or perpetrator) is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

9. Anti-bullying culture and systems

- 9.1 It is everyone's responsibility to ensure, whatever the circumstances, that no-one becomes a victim of bullying. A person may be vulnerable to bullying because of their age, physical appearance, nationality, colour, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief, culture or learning difficulty, disability, home circumstances or because they are new in the School, appears to be uncertain or has no friends. They may also become a target because of an irrational decision by a bully.
- 9.2 Our expectation of all members of the School community is that:
 - 9.2.1 everyone will uphold the School Rules;
 - 9.2.2 a pupil or a member of staff or volunteer who witnesses or hears of an incident of bullying will report it in accordance with the terms of this policy;
 - 9.2.3 a complaint of bullying will always be taken seriously;
 - 9.2.4 no-one will tolerate unkind actions or remarks or stand by when someone else is being bullied.
- 9.3 In School and in every year group:
 - 9.3.1 discriminatory and offensive words and behaviour are treated as unacceptable;
 - 9.3.2 positive attitudes are fostered towards people with any protected characteristic including those who are disabled and towards ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic groups within and outside the School; and
 - 9.3.3 positive attitudes are fostered towards gender and sexuality differences through the curriculum and tutorials.

9.4 The Governing Body

- 9.4.1 The Governing Body has overall responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of pupils at the School, ensuring that those in leadership and management positions actively promote pupil well-being. This includes ensuring that policies and procedures are in place and implemented effectively to:
- (a) minimise the risk of bullying at the School so that pupils and staff feel safe and secure;
 - (b) intervene early in low-level disruption to prevent negative behaviours escalating;
 - (c) deal swiftly with allegations and incidents of bullying at the School so that pupils and staff feel confident that all incidents will be dealt with appropriately;
 - (d) consider incidences of sexual harassment in broad terms so that it is challenged in order to prevent the normalisation of behaviours which can provide an environment that may lead to sexual violence.

9.5 Staff

- 9.5.1 Through their training and experience, members of staff and volunteers are expected to promote an anti-bullying culture by:
- (a) celebrating achievement;
 - (b) anticipating problems and providing support;
 - (c) adopting a proactive interactive approach to bullying by gathering intelligence about issues between pupils which might provoke conflict and developing strategies to prevent bullying occurring in the first place;
 - (d) disciplining perpetrators fairly, consistently and reasonably, taking into account any special educational needs or disabilities of the pupil, taking into account the motivations and any underlying safety concerns of the perpetrator and providing support as appropriate;
 - (e) making opportunities to listen to pupils;
 - (f) acting as advocates of pupils.

- 9.5.2 Members of staff and volunteers are vigilant at all times and particularly:

- (a) at the start and end of the School day when pupils arrive and leave the site;
- (b) before and after lessons, and during playtimes/ breaks;
- (c) in the queue for the dining hall and in the dining hall itself;
- (d) in School corridors;
- (e) in sport changing rooms;
- (f) on School transport / School trips.

- 9.5.3 Bullying is regularly discussed by Heads of Year / Phase Leaders in their team meetings. The result of these meetings is to feedback information about friendship patterns, particular incidents, any pupil who seems to be isolated, any growing "power base", any development of spaces where others are made to feel uncomfortable and any known conflict between pupils so that strategies can be developed to prevent bullying incidents.

9.6 Pupils

- 9.6.1 Through the School's pastoral care systems and Pastoral Curriculum/PSHE programme, pupils are informed and taught that bullying will not be tolerated in the School. They are encouraged:
- (a) to uphold the School Rules;
 - (b) to celebrate the effort and achievements of others;
 - (c) to hold and promote positive attitudes;
 - (d) to feel able to share problems with staff;
 - (e) to turn to someone they trust, if they have a problem;
 - (f) not to feel guilty about airing complaints;
 - (g) to be kind, considerate and tolerant towards others;
 - (h) to be aware of the impact their behaviour can have on others;
 - (i) to challenge their peers if they are unkind to others;
 - (j) to celebrate the diversity of others and avoid prejudice-based language;
 - (k) to use technology safely and securely and to be aware of the risks and impact of the use of technology on themselves and others.
- 9.6.2 Measures are taken throughout each year to educate pupils about bullying and this policy. These measures may include the following:
- (a) all new pupils are made aware of the School's expected standards of behaviour. They are told what to do if they encounter bullying;
 - (b) the Pastoral Curriculum/PHSE programme includes lessons on bullying by teaching the moral and spiritual values that show bullying to be unacceptable and by developing social skills;
 - (c) anti-bullying posters are placed around the School;
 - (d) anti-bullying messages are given in assemblies;
 - (e) national campaigns are used to raise awareness amongst the School community;
 - (f) online safety is a key aspect of all areas of the curriculum. Parents are informed about online safety issues and the School's strategies to safeguard pupils through *Schoolsmobile*, correspondence and annual events held by the School to raise awareness. See the School's Online Safety Policy for further information about the School's online safety strategy;
 - (g) our trained School Counsellors. In the Senior School, pupils can refer themselves to the counsellors when they have social, emotional or behavioural concerns and in the Junior School referral is made by staff, via the Deputy Head (Pastoral) in the Junior School. A member of the pastoral team in the Senior School may also refer a pupil;
 - (h) all staff will seek to encourage the development of tolerance, understanding and respect for others in a multi-faith community;
 - (i) the Health & Wellbeing Centre which will display advice on where pupils can seek help, including details of confidential helplines and websites connecting to external specialists such as ChildLine, Kidscape, Get Connected, Samaritans etc;

- (j) Prefects and Peer Mentors who are given leadership and training to cover the importance of offering support and assistance to younger and vulnerable pupils;
 - (k) the Deputy Head (Pastoral) who will be available to give specialist advice to all pupils;
 - (l) Anti-Bullying Ambassadors who are given the responsibility to share concerns and best practice in dealing with them, through year-group welfare;
 - (m) pupils in the Senior School having access to a specific email address (concern@pgs.org.uk) and pupils in the Junior School taking part in weekly Feelings Vault activities to record and share concerns with staff;
 - (n) anonymous reporting may take place. Pupils may report anonymously via PGS Online if they feel more comfortable doing so. Pupils using this method are encouraged to leave identifying details in order that appropriate support may be offered.
- 9.6.3 The School recognises that children with special educational needs and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges, including the potential to be disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs. The School will consider extra pastoral support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, as required.

9.7 Parents

- 9.7.1 The School will take active measures to promote an anti-bullying culture and message to parents that bullying amongst pupils or towards staff will not be tolerated by the School.

10. Reporting concerns

10.1 Pupils

- 10.1.1 A pupil who is being bullied, or who is worried about another pupil being bullied, should tell someone without delay and can do so in several ways. They can:
- (a) **in the Senior School:** tell their parent, a friend, Tutor, Head of Year, member of the Safeguarding Team, a Sixth Former, a Prefect or Peer Mentor, Anti-bullying Ambassador, D&I Ambassador, School Nurse, Counsellor or any member of staff or volunteer at the School they feel they can confide in;
 - (b) **in the Junior School:** tell their parent, a friend, a buddy, an Anti-Bullying Ambassador, a class teacher, record it via the JS Digital Feelings Vault, the School Nurse, a Counsellor, their Form Teacher or any member of staff or volunteer at the School they feel they can confide in;
 - (c) **in the Pre-School:** tell their parent or any member of staff in the Pre-School they feel they can confide in;
 - (d) contact concern@pgs.org.uk (dedicated PGS contact email address) or the anonymous reporting link [here](#); and/or
 - (e) contact Childline (0800 1111).

10.2 Parents

- 10.2.1 Parents who are concerned that their child or another pupil within the school is being bullied should inform an appropriate member of staff. This is likely to be:
- (a) **in the Senior School:** the Tutor or Head of Year

- (b) **in the Junior School:** the Form Teacher, a Teaching Assistant or Phase Leader
- (c) **in the Pre-School:** their child's Key Worker or Pre-School Lead.

10.3 Staff

10.3.1 A member of staff or volunteer who learns of alleged bullying behaviour should:

- (a) respond quickly and sensitively by offering advice, support and reassurance to the alleged victim. No victim should ever be made to feel ashamed;
- (b) listen carefully and keep an open mind;
- (c) not ask leading questions;
- (d) reassure the child but not give a guarantee of confidentiality;
- (e) report the allegation to an appropriate colleague as follows:
 - (i) **in the Senior School:** the Head of Year, but it may also be one of the Deputy Heads or the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead;
 - (ii) **in the Pre and Junior School:** the Deputy Head (Pastoral) of the Junior School who is also the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- (f) follow the guidance on responding to allegations and incidents of bullying which is in the Staff Handbook on PGS Online. This will include staff completing a PGS Incident Report Form.
- (g) for a safeguarding concern, follow the guidance on responding to suspected safeguarding incidents as laid out in the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedure: if a member of staff or volunteer suspects or receives information that suggests a child is suffering abuse or seems to be in need or at risk, they should alert the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead or a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and record their concerns accurately on CPOMS.

10.3.2 If the alleged bullying behaviour raises a safeguarding concern, the matter should be reported in accordance with The PGS Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedure before further investigation is carried out. In the case of bullying potentially involving harmful sexual behaviours, staff will follow safeguarding guidance set out in The PGS Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedure/ Part 5 of KCSIE.

10.3.3 This policy focuses mainly on the bullying of pupils by pupils although it is recognised that a staff member could be a victim of and on occasion may be perceived to be the perpetrator of bullying behaviour. The bullying of staff, whether by pupils, parents or other colleagues, is unacceptable. Staff members who are concerned about being bullied or harassed should refer to the School's Staff Handbook and the School's Equal Opportunities for Staff and Dignity at Work Policy. Pupils, other staff or parents who feel that a member of staff is bullying should report this in accordance with the procedures set out above.

11. Why incidents might not be reported

- 11.1 There are many reasons why a pupil who has suffered bullying may be reluctant to report it. They may be concerned about or even frightened of the consequences of reporting it and/or may become demoralised and may think, for example:

- 11.1.1 it is telling tales;
 - 11.1.2 they won't believe me because the person I am complaining about is popular and I am not, and I will become even more unpopular;
 - 11.1.3 the things they are saying and doing are too embarrassing to discuss with an adult;
 - 11.1.4 it is all my fault anyway for being overweight / too studious etc;
 - 11.1.5 there are too many of them; there is nothing the staff can do;
 - 11.1.6 it will get back to my parents and they will think less of me;
 - 11.1.7 I will just try and toughen up and grow a thicker skin;
 - 11.1.8 I will lie low and not draw attention to myself;
 - 11.1.9 this is a normal part of growing up and going to school.
- 11.2 There are also reasons why a pupil who has witnessed or learned of bullying behaviour may not want to make a report. They may think:
- 11.2.1 it is "grassing / snitching" and I will become unpopular;
 - 11.2.2 it is not my concern anyway;
 - 11.2.3 I don't like the victim and I would find it embarrassing to be associated with him / her;
 - 11.2.4 I am concerned about / frightened of the consequences of reporting it.
- 11.3 Any of these responses would be contrary to our culture at the School. When we implement this policy we encourage every pupil (and their parents) to understand that:
- 11.3.1 every complaint of bullying will be taken seriously;
 - 11.3.2 members of staff and volunteers will deal with a complaint correctly and effectively in accordance with their experience and the training they have received;
 - 11.3.3 there is a solution to nearly every problem of bullying;
 - 11.3.4 a pupil who complains will receive support and advice and in some cases the problem can be dealt with on a no-names basis;
 - 11.3.5 the primary aim will be for the bullying to cease, not the punishment of the bully unless this is necessary;
 - 11.3.6 we may need to support the bully as well so we can address the causes of bullying behaviour.

12. Assessment of concerns

- 12.1 A member of the pupil's Year Team will normally see the victim and (unless the case is very serious) any witnesses without delay and form an initial view of the allegation. The assessment will consider:
- 12.1.1 the nature of the incident(s): physical? sexual? verbal? exclusionary? etc
 - 12.1.2 is it a "one-off" incident involving an individual or a group?
 - 12.1.3 is it part of a pattern of behaviour by an individual or a group?
 - 12.1.4 has physical injury been caused?

- 12.1.5 who should be informed: Head? Parents? the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead? Children's Social Care? the Police?
- 12.1.6 can the alleged bully be questioned without disclosing the victim's identity?
- 12.1.7 what is the likely outcome if the allegation proves to be correct?
- 12.2 At this stage, the possible outcomes for an incident which is not too serious include:
 - 12.2.1 there has been a misunderstanding which can be explained sympathetically to the alleged victim with advice to the alleged bully; or
 - 12.2.2 the complaint is justified in whole or in part, and further action will be needed.
- 12.3 If at any stage the alleged bullying behaviour raises a safeguarding concern, the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedure should be followed before further investigation is carried out. This will always be the case where sexting, intimate image abuse, cyberflashing or other harmful sexual behaviours are involved. Where bullying allegedly involves youth produced sexual imagery, staff will not view or forward sexual imagery reported to them and will follow the School's policy on sexting as set out in the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedure.
- 12.4 Otherwise, in cases where the pupil's Head of Year / Phase Leader believes that serious bullying behaviour has occurred involving a pupil or has recurred after warnings have been given to the "bully", they will refer the matter to the Senior Deputy Head and Deputy Head (Pastoral) in the Senior School, the Deputy Head (Pastoral) of the Junior School or the Pre-School Lead as appropriate.
- 12.5 Where appropriate, the Senior Deputy Head, the Deputy Head (Pastoral), the Deputy Head (Pastoral) of the Junior School, or Pre-School Lead will:
 - 12.5.1 interview the alleged victim, bully and any witnesses separately, in order to establish the facts of the case. He / she may decide to ask another member of staff to be present; and
 - 12.5.2 send a summary of their findings (via a completed Incident Report) to the Head and, if relevant, the Head of the Junior School and other staff as appropriate.
- 12.6 Together with the Head, the Senior Deputy Head, the Deputy Head (Pastoral), the Head of the Junior School, the Deputy Head (Pastoral) of the Junior School or the Pre-School Lead will decide on the action to be taken in accordance with this policy.
- 12.7 The Head, Senior Deputy Head, Deputy Head (Pastoral), Head of the Junior School, Deputy Head (Pastoral) of the Junior School, or the Pre-School Lead will notify the parents of the victim and bully giving them details of the case and the action being taken. Such action may include further investigation and action in accordance with The PGS Behaviour and Relationships Policy / The PGS Exclusions Policy, as relevant.

13. Response to concerns

- 13.1 When a complaint of bullying behaviour is upheld, the range of responses may include one or more of the following:
 - 13.1.1 consideration as to whether the bullying incident should be addressed as a safeguarding concern and if so, the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedure will be followed;

- 13.1.2 advice and support for the victim and, where appropriate, establishing a course of action to help the victim, including support from external services where appropriate;
 - 13.1.3 advice and support for the bully in trying to change their behaviour. This may include completing the restorative programme and a warning or final warning;
 - 13.1.4 consideration of the motivation behind the bullying behaviour and whether external services should be used to tackle any underlying issues of the bully which contributed to the bullying behaviour. If these considerations give rise to safeguarding concerns relating to the bullying, guidance in The PGS Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedure will be followed;
 - 13.1.5 a supervised meeting between the bully and the victim to discuss their differences and the ways in which they may be able to avoid future conflict (only with the victim's express agreement);
 - 13.1.6 a disciplinary sanction against the bully, in accordance with The PGS Behaviour and Relationships Policy / The PGS Discipline and Exclusion Policy. In a very serious case or a case of persistent bullying, a pupil may be required to leave the School permanently. Any disciplinary action will be applied fairly, consistently and reasonably, taking into account any special educational needs or disabilities and the needs of vulnerable pupils;
 - 13.1.7 action to break up a "power base" or areas where others feel uncomfortable;
 - 13.1.8 confiscation of mobile electronic devices, increased monitoring procedures or limiting access to the School's internet and email facilities if cyberbullying (see also the PGS Acceptable Use Policy for Pupils (AUP));
 - 13.1.9 moving either the bully or victim to another House or form group after consultation with the pupil, their parents and the relevant staff;
 - 13.1.10 involving children's social care or the police;
 - 13.1.11 notifying the parents of one or both pupils about the case and the action which has been taken; and/or
 - 13.1.12 such other action as may appear to the Head and/or DSL to be appropriate.
- 13.2 The position should be monitored for as long as necessary thereafter. Action may include:
- 13.2.1 sharing information with some or all colleagues so that they may be alert to the need to monitor certain pupils closely;
 - 13.2.2 alerting specific pupils so that they may assist in monitoring and/or offering support;
 - 13.2.3 ongoing counselling and support;
 - 13.2.4 vigilance;
 - 13.2.5 mentioning the incident at meetings of staff;
 - 13.2.6 reviewing support for vulnerable individuals and reviewing sensitive areas of the School.

14. Supporting those severely impacted by bullying

- 14.1 The School recognises that removing bullied pupils from school is disruptive and can make it difficult to reintegrate. The School understands in some circumstances, however, the

consequences of being bullied may have had a severe impact on a pupil's social, emotional or mental health and may have impacted seriously on a pupil's ability to learn.

14.2 The School will do all that is reasonably possible to ensure bullied pupils continue to attend school and maintain their educational progression by putting in place proportionate short term alternative on-site provision plans where necessary.

14.3 If the pupil is considered to have significantly greater difficulty learning than the majority of those the same age because of the impact of the bullying, the School will consider whether the pupil will benefit from being assessed for special educational needs.

15. Training

15.1 Staff

15.1.1 The School ensures that regular guidance and training is arranged on induction and at regular intervals thereafter so that staff and volunteers understand what is expected of them by this policy and have the necessary knowledge and skills to carry out their roles especially:

- (a) having an understanding of the groups who may be more vulnerable to bullying;
- (b) awareness of the risk and indications of bullying, and how to deal with cases;
- (c) counselling skills (including bereavement);
- (d) awareness of the risks of child-on-child abuse including sexual violence and sexual harassment and how bullying may give rise to safeguarding concerns.

15.1.2 The level and frequency of training depends on role of the individual member of staff.

15.1.3 The School maintains written records of all staff training.

15.2 Pupils

15.2.1 We emphasise with older pupils the role which is expected of them in setting a good example and being helpful to younger pupils and each other. This includes the appointment and training of pupils as Prefects and Peer Mentors and the operation of the House System.

15.2.2 Prefects receive leadership training which includes recognising bullying behaviour and ensuring that they use their position effectively.

15.2.3 Antibullying Ambassadors receive training which includes recognising bullying behaviour and ensuring that they use their position effectively.

15.2.4 As part of the induction programme, expectations of behaviour will be shared with all pupils.

16. Risk assessment

16.1 Where a concern about a pupil's welfare is identified, the risks to that pupil's welfare will be assessed and appropriate action will be taken to reduce the risks identified.

16.2 The format of risk assessment may vary and may be included as part of the School's overall response to a welfare issue, including the use of individual pupil welfare plans (such as care, behaviour, healthcare and education plans, as appropriate). Regardless of the form used, the School's approach to promoting pupil welfare will be systematic and pupil focused.

- 16.3 The Deputy Head (Pastoral) has overall responsibility for ensuring that matters which affect pupil welfare are adequately risk assessed and for ensuring that the relevant findings are implemented, monitored and evaluated.
- 16.4 Day to day responsibility to carry out risk assessments under this policy will be delegated to the Heads of Year who have been properly trained in, and tasked with, carrying out the particular assessment.

17. Record keeping and monitoring

- 17.1 All records created in accordance with this policy are managed in accordance with the School's policies that apply to the retention and destruction of records.
- 17.2 The Head, Senior Deputy Head, or Deputy Head (Pastoral), or the Head or Deputy Head (Pastoral) of the Junior School, or the Pre-School Lead will be made aware of all reported incidents of bullying, whether confirmed or otherwise, through regular meetings.
- 17.3 The Senior Management Team will address procedures for consideration of what can be learned from bullying incidents. The guidelines in this policy apply to all members of the school community.
- 17.4 School staff maintain records of the welfare and development of individual pupils. Every complaint or report of bullying is recorded centrally and monitored to enable patterns to be identified, both in relation to individual pupils and across the school as a whole and to evaluate the effectiveness of the School's approach.
- 17.5 The Senior Deputy Head (in consultation with the Deputy Head (Pastoral) and the Deputy Head (Pastoral) of the Junior School) will maintain a centralised record of all allegations or reports of bullying, including details of those involved and the action taken and the collation of PGS Incident report forms and / or emails sent to the concern@pgs.org.uk email address.
- 17.6 The Senior Deputy Head and Deputy Head (Pastoral) of the Junior School will monitor the centralised record of bullying incidents on a regular basis to identify patterns in behaviour and the effectiveness of the School's anti-bullying procedures.
- 17.7 The records created in accordance with this policy may contain personal data. The School has a number of privacy notices which explain how the School will use personal data about pupils and parents. The privacy notices are published on the School's website. In addition, staff must ensure that they follow the School's data protection policies and procedures when handling personal data created in connection with this policy. This includes the PGS Data Protection Policy.

Appendix 1 Cyberbullying: guidance for pupils

1. Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place using technology.
2. Pupils in Year 9 and above are required to bring a device to school for use in lessons (and from September 2026 pupils in Year 7 and 8 will have school managed devices). These pupils are given a clear set of rules to follow in their use of devices in school which are designed to reinforce the prevention of cyberbullying. There are also clear guidelines in place for the use of mobile devices, for example in the school rules and the School documents detailed in paragraph 5 below:
3. Pupils should remember the following:
 - 3.1. use the security settings when using technology;
 - 3.2. regularly change your password and keep it private. If you are unsure the School offers guidance on keeping names, addresses, passwords, mobile phone numbers and other personal details safe at an age appropriate level;
 - 3.3. always respect others - be careful what you say online and what images you send;
 - 3.4. think before you send - whatever you send can be made public very quickly and could stay online forever;
 - 3.5. if you or someone you know is being cyberbullied, **tell someone**. You have the right not to be harassed or bullied online. Tell an adult you trust - your parents, any member of staff or volunteer, email the School's dedicated email address *concern@pgs.org.uk* or telephone a helpline such as ChildLine on 0800 1111;
 - 3.6. don't retaliate or reply online;
 - 3.7. save the evidence - learn how to keep records of offending messages, pictures or online conversations. Ask someone if you are unsure how to do this. This will help to show what is happening and can be used by the School to investigate the matter;
 - 3.8. block the bully. Most social media websites and online or mobile services allow you block someone who is behaving badly;
 - 3.9. don't do nothing - if you see cyberbullying going on, support the victim and report the bullying;
 - 3.10. the School blocks certain sites that are blocked by the filtering system and the ICT Services Department monitor pupils' use;
 - 3.11. the School may impose sanctions for the misuse, or attempted misuse of the internet;
 - 3.12. all Senior School pupils are issued their own personal school email address;
 - 3.13. the School prohibits the use of cameras on mobile devices in washing and changing areas;
 - 3.14. the School prohibits the use of pupil's personal mobile devices whilst on site in the Junior School.
4. You may find the following websites helpful:
 - 4.1. <http://www.childnet.com/young-people>
 - 4.2. <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

- 4.3. <https://www.childline.org.uk/Explore/Bullying/Pages/online-bullying.aspx>
- 4.4. <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/young-people>
- 4.5. <https://www.disrespectnobody.co.uk/>
- 4.6. <http://www.safetynetkids.org.uk/>
- 4.7. <http://ceop.police.uk/>
- 4.8. Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) <http://www.antibullyingalliance.org.uk/Page.asp>
- 5. Please see the PGS Acceptable Use Policy for Pupils (AUP) which sets out the School rules about the use of technology including mobile electronic devices.

Appendix 2 PGS Restorative programme

4 steps to change

The rationale: *The aim is to re-visit our PGS values, re-set our high expectations, reduce repeat offences (avoiding more serious sanctions) and therefore protect our community. It is about educating the potential bullies on intent versus the impact of their actions and help them to develop empathy and emotional intelligence.*

1. Responsibility – SMT/DSL/DDSL

No one “made” the pupil / pupils bully, it was a conscious decision. Even in situations involving peer pressure, group bullying or bully-victim cycles, the bully / bullies are responsible for their choices. While there are many different ways to get a bully / bullies to take responsibility, the key is that they verbalise what they did wrong and sincerely own their actions. In the first meeting the pupil / pupils involved in bullying behaviours will have an opportunity to explain their actions and reflect on how they could have responded differently. It is important to note that the member of SMT will address the responsibility of the bully sensitively and will take into account the bully’s / bullies’ overall circumstances and any SEND.

2. Empathy – SMT/DSL/DDSL

Many bullying behaviours are because of a potential lack of empathy. Rarely is there an intent to cause harm. Misguided micro-aggressions or subtle relational aggressions can be hurtful and it is about highlighting intent versus impact. Therefore, building empathy and emotional intelligence should ensure that the pupil(s) are more considerate in future. This session will ask the bully / bullies to look at a situation from the victim’s point of view. Some key questions to ask.

How might the victim feel?

How might the bystanders feel?

Show some videos about the effects of bullying.

<https://learn.rumie.org/jR/bytes/the-consequences-of-bullying-on-victims/>

3. What caused the behaviours? – School counsellor(s) for at least one session to address the potential cause for bullying behaviours.

Tutor / Form Teacher, HOY / Phase Leader, Deputy Head (Pastoral), Senior Deputy Head, Deputy Head (Pastoral) in the Junior School provide the counsellors with an outline of what has taken place and the response from the alleged bully / bullies to date in steps 1 and 2. The role of the counsellor will be to assist the alleged bully in considering the underlining reason(s) for their behaviours.

Anger management

Impulse control

Self- Worth

Inclusive

4. Respect – completes a review with HOY / Phase Leader or Tutor / Form Teacher

The pupil and the HOY / Phase Leader consider the following questions to see what the pupil has learned.

1. What is considered as bullying
2. The short and long term impact of bullying on the victim and bystanders
3. What they should do in future if they see bullying behaviours
4. What are the consequences if you demonstrate bullying behaviours.

Appendix 3

Allocation of Tasks and Version control

1.Allocation of tasks: In accordance with paragraph 4 above, the Governing Body has allocated tasks according to the table below:

Task	Allocated to	When / frequency of review
Keeping the policy up to date and compliant with the law and best practice	Deputy Head (Pastoral)	As required, and at least termly
Monitoring the implementation of the policy, relevant risk assessments and any action taken in response and evaluating effectiveness	Deputy Head (Pastoral)	As required, and at least termly
Maintaining up to date records of all information created in relation to the policy and its implementation as required by the GDPR	The Senior Deputy Head / Deputy Head (Pastoral) and the Deputy Head (Pastoral) of the Junior School	As required, and at least termly
Seeking / receiving input from interested groups (such as pupils, staff, Parents) to consider improvements to the School's processes under the policy	Deputy Head (Pastoral) and the Deputy Head (Pastoral) of the Junior School	As required, and at least annually
Formal annual review	The Governing Body	Annually

2.Version Control

Date of adoption/approval of this policy	26 th June 2026 (Governing Body)
Date of last review of this policy	15 th May 2026 (Safeguarding Committee)
Date of pre-review(s)	18 th April 2026 (Pastoral Review Meeting_(em) 20 th April 2026 (Senior Management Team)
Date for next review of this policy	Summer Term 2027
Policy author (SMT)	Deputy Head (Pastoral)
Status	ISI requirement (external website)
Report	Safeguarding and Pastoral

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