Marden Bridge Middle School

Empowering Minds Inspiring Futures

Pupil Led Anti Bullying Policy 2026

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1.	**Purpose** Our school is committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all students. Bullying of any kind is not tolerated. This policy outlines the types of bullying and the steps we will take to address and prevent it.
2.	**Definition of bullying** The **repetitive**, **intentional hurting** of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an **imbalance of power**. It can happen face-to-face or online. Bullying rarely takes place between a 'victim' and a 'bully' alone. It tends to be a group behaviour. Others can have a significant influence on the outcomes of behaviours among children and young people intentionally or otherwise.
3.	**Types of bullying** Verbal Bullying: ● Most common form of bullying ● Calling names or teasing ● Homophobic or racist comments ● Using words to put someone down (especially in front of others) ● Insults and/or intimidation ● Making someone feel worthless ● Making up songs/chants about someone ● Making jokes about someone ● Whispering about someone Social Bullying: ● Leaving someone out of a game on purpose ● Encouraging others not to play with someone ● Damaging reputation ● Spreading rumours ● Whispering about someone ● Embarrassing someone in front of others

	Physical Bullying: ● Any behaviour which causes someone to be physically hurt ● Hitting, kicking, punching, tripping up, burning, using weapons ● Forcing others to hurt a child ● Forcing a child to hurt themselves ● Breaking property ● Forcing someone to fight or pinning them down while others hit them Cyberbullying: ● Using a computer, internet, mobile phone, IPAD, Social media etc to cause hurt to someone ● Sending inappropriate and/or abusive emails or texts ● Circulating photographs against their will ● Trolling ● Stealing and using someone's login ● Forming social media groups / hate campaigns against someone ● Using social media to spread rumours Racist and Religious Bullying: A range of hurtful behaviour, both physical and psychological, that makes a person feel unwelcome, marginalised, excluded, powerless or worthless because of their colour, ethnicity, culture, faith community, national origin or national status Sexual, Sexist and Transphobic Bullying: includes any behaviour, whether physical or nonphysical, where sexuality is used as a weapon by boys or girls Homophobic Bullying: targets someone because of their sexual orientation (or perceived sexual orientation) Disablist Bullying: targets a young person solely based on their disability, this can include manipulative bullying where a perpetrator forces the victim to act in a certain way, or exploiting a certain aspect of the victim's disability. **It is important to remember that bullying can also be a combination of the above.**
4.	**Friendship / Social difficulties and bullying** We recognise that sometimes pupils will have friendship or social difficulties; these are determined as incidents that may include the following categories: • One-off or low level disagreements • Often unintentional • Boisterous play

	• Misperception of behaviour from others • Lack of awareness of social expectations / boundaries • May be directed from both children who just can't get along with each other Bullying is determined as actions that are: • Repeated • Targetted • Ongoing without intervention • Secretive • Intention to hurt someone • Serious • Usually directed one-way Record keeping is essential in identifying and supporting victims of bullying, we will seek to record all incidents of friendship/social difficulties on the PCL to ensure that patterns of behaviour can be tracked over time.
5.	**Preventative actions** 1. Education and Awareness: ● Regularly scheduled assemblies and classroom discussions about bullying and its effects. ● Incorporating bullying prevention into the curriculum. ● Providing training for staff, students, and parents on how to recognize and prevent bullying. 2. Promoting a Positive School Climate: ● Encouraging a culture of respect and inclusion. ● Implementing school-wide activities that promote teamwork and empathy. ● Establishing clear school rules and policies regarding bullying and expected behaviour.
6.	**Responsive actions** ● Reporting and Responding: ○ Providing multiple ways for students to report bullying ■ Worry boxes, ■ trusted adults, ■ Safeandsound@mbms.org.uk email address

	○ Ensuring all reports of bullying are taken seriously and investigated promptly. ● Support for Victims: ○ SEMH support ○ Form tutor follow ups on days 2, 5 and 10 to see the issue has been addressed ○ HoY Check ins ○ Developing safety plans ○ Providing academic support if needed. ● Addressing Bully Behaviour: ○ Implementing appropriate sanctions for those who bully, in line with the behaviour policy. ○ Providing counselling or behaviour modification programs for bullies to understand the impact of their actions and to change their behaviour. ● Parental Involvement: ○ Communicating with parents/guardians about incidents of bullying and involving them in the resolution process. ○ Offering resources and workshops for parents on how to support their children and reinforce positive behaviour at home. ● Follow-Up: ○ Monitoring the situation between the bully and the victim to prevent further incidents. ○ Checking in regularly with both the victim and the bully to ensure ongoing support and positive behaviour changes.
7.	**Review and Monitoring** The school will review this policy annually to ensure its effectiveness. Feedback will be sought from students, parents, and staff to continually improve our approach to preventing and addressing bullying. By working together, we can create a school environment where every student feels safe, respected, and valued.