



# ANTI-BULLYING POLICY STATEMENT

This is a Trust-Wide Policy Statement. It applies to all the schools within the Trust

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Owner of Statement: Chair of the PDIG

Authorised By: Operations Board

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Distribution: **All Staff**

## ANTI-BULLYING

### Vision

The vision of Bright Futures Educational Trust is to create a world class education to enable every young person to reach their full potential, and in particular, their full academic potential.

Bullying can seriously impede a pupil from realising their potential and this policy statement along with the supporting procedures and measures held by each school in the Trust, will help BFET schools to prevent and respond to bullying as part of their overall approach to behaviour management.

### Definition

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms e.g. physical or verbal face to face, cyber-bullying via text messages or social media, derogatory name calling, social exclusion, ridicule, humiliation, extortion and is often motivated by prejudice against a particular group, e.g. on the grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, special educational needs or because a child is adopted or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences.

### Rationale

All children have a right to feel safe and protected in school from all forms of bullying or Harassment. In addition to this morale responsibility to prevent, identify and act upon potential bullying, there is also a legal responsibility. This legal responsibility is contained in the Independent School Standard Regulations 2010 (which apply to academies), the Equality Act 2010, The Children Act 1989 and for some types of bullying criminal law may apply e.g. Protection from Harassment Act 1997, the Communications Act 2003 or the Malicious Communications Act 1998. In addition schools have a responsibility to ensure that their policies adhere to the Trust's Policy Statement on British Values.

Schools have a responsibility to also act on misbehaviour/bullying outside school premises, where it is reasonable to do so.

### Aims

The aims of this policy statement and its supporting procedures and measures are to:

1. To create an environment that prevents bullying being a serious problem in the first instance.
2. Set clear standards of acceptable behaviour and clarity of sanctions that could apply, to children, parents and staff.
3. Provide for prompt action.
4. Investigate the reasons for the behaviour and offer support for the reform of the bully.
5. Provide an environment where children feel able to report and openly discuss bullying.

### School policies and procedures

Each school within the Trust will have its own policy and procedures that are bespoke to the school and ensure compliance with this statement.