



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Anti-Bullying Policy

Approved by the LGB, November 2023

Next review: LGB2, December 2024

1. Introduction

Queen Mary's Grammar School is committed to protecting its pupils from bullying, and wishes ultimately to eradicate it from the community.

We do this because we want to:

- safeguard our pupils' safety, happiness and self-confidence;
- ensure the pupil's unimpeded attendance and academic progress;
- provide a recognised model of good behaviour and fair treatment in school and in the wider community of parents, family and friends;
- provide a safe and secure environment where all pupils can learn without anxiety;
- educate future citizens in the expectations of society;
- promote tolerance and understanding of different cultures;
- provide an environment which is conducive to a child's personal development.

We believe that we have a joint responsibility for the welfare of our pupils with parents, and so we will make parents aware of our policy and communicate with them if we are aware of bullying.

We will, when we think it is necessary, use external agencies both to support children who have been the subject of bullying, and to work with the perpetrator to change their behaviour.

2. Our Aims

- a) To make sure everyone in the school knows what we regard as "bullying".
- b) To make sure that pupils know what to do and who they can turn to if they think they are being bullied, or if they know someone else is being bullied.
- c) To make sure that where we are told about bullying, that we deal with it fairly, sympathetically, firmly and promptly.
- d) To make sure that those who are victims of bullying are supported and reassured;
- e) To make sure that those dealing with allegations of bullying are trained and supported;
- f) To make sure that anyone reporting an allegation of bullying is not subjected to any detrimental treatment, harassment or bullying.
- g) To make sure that those who we find have been bullying are required to change their behaviour and will be subject to an appropriate high challenge, high support pathway which can include:
 - Internal isolation, during break and lunchtime
 - Detention
 - Internal suspension
 - External suspension
 - Permanent exclusion
 - Mediation / Restorative meeting
 - Referral for counselling / victim support
 - Written or verbal apology

- Parent/carer meeting with Head of Year and/or SLT member leading to parental assistance in applying support or strategies or deterrents as necessary
- Continued monitoring of victim/bully
- Referral to external agencies, e.g. Social Services, Educational Psychologist, the Police, etc.

3. Definitions of 'Bullying'

We consider bullying to be behaviour by an individual or group that is persistent and deliberate, which attempts to intimidate, hurt (physically or emotionally) or humiliate someone.

There may sometimes be misunderstanding about the meaning of the term 'bullying'. One-off incidents, whilst they may be very serious and must always be dealt with, do not fall within the definition of 'bullying'.

4. Types of bullying

There are various types of bullying, but most have three things in common:

- It is deliberately hurtful behaviour.
- It is repeated over time.
- There is an imbalance of power, which makes it hard for those being bullied to defend themselves.

There are various forms of bullying which include:

- Physical – e.g. hitting, kicking, taking belongings
- Emotional – e.g. being unfriendly, spreading malicious rumours, excluding individuals from social groups
- Verbal – e.g. name calling, teasing, insulting, racist and homophobic remarks
- Cyber – e.g. use of email, social networking sites, mobile phone messaging to spread rumours, make malicious comments.

5. Responsibilities

The Headmaster:

He will take overall responsibility for the Policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body and parents; and for the appointment within School of a Designated Teacher responsible for co-ordinating action against bullying.

The Governors:

They have overall responsibility for ensuring there is a relevant and appropriate policy to prevent bullying, and for monitoring and reviewing the policy regularly. The Governing Body will receive reports from the Headmaster on incidents of bullying, and will monitor and review the action taken by the Headmaster.

The Designated Teacher: Miss Naguthney

This person will liaise with staff and others in dealing with issues of bullying, and refer them to the Headmaster to decide what action should be taken. In addition, the Designated Teacher will recommend to the Headmaster what steps, if any, should be taken to support any victim of bullying.

All staff:

Staff should be alert to any potential incidents of bullying and ready to intervene. Staff must also be aware of behaviour that might indicate a pupil is being bullied. Although staff may not be aware of some of these, the following are the classic symptoms of a bullied child:

- Unexplainable injuries
- Lost or destroyed clothing, books, electronics, or jewellery
- Frequent headaches or stomach aches, feeling sick or faking illness
- Changes in eating habits, like suddenly skipping meals or binge eating.

- Difficulty sleeping or frequent nightmares
- Declining grades, loss of interest in schoolwork, or not wanting to go to school
- Sudden loss of friends or avoidance of social situations
- Feelings of helplessness or decreased self esteem
- Self-destructive behaviours such as running away from home, harming themselves, or talking about suicide

6. What to do and what will happen

Pupils who believe they are being bullied or have been bullied must report this; the procedure is below. All pupils have a responsibility to stop bullying. Standing by knowing someone is being bullied only contributes to the issue.

- Anyone who is being bullied, or any pupil or parent aware of someone else being bullied, should in the first instance report this to a member of staff, this can be the Designated Teacher or any other member of staff. If a student does not feel comfortable speaking to a member of staff they can report any incident by:
 - Using a 'Bullying Report Form', which are located in the school reception and library. A copy of the form is also available in Appendix 2 of this document.
 - Using the Welfare QR code (located around school and in toilets) to email a concern to the Welfare Hub.
 - Emailing enquiries@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk, well-being@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk or safeguarding@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk
 - Ringing the school reception 01922 720696.
- Any such referral will then be passed to the Year Team who with support from the Behaviour Support Managers will investigate the allegations, interviewing all those concerned or mentioned in the alleged incident.
- The incident will then be reported to Miss Naguthney (Assistant Headteacher for Behaviour and Discipline) who with the help of the Head of Year, will decide what action should be taken, including any sanction to be imposed as well as the support needed for any victim.
- The parents of all students involved will be informed about the bullying incident as well as the challenge and support measures that have been put in place.
- All incidents of bullying are recorded, and reported (without names) to the Governing Body, and sent at the end of the year to the Local Authority.

7. Peer on Peer Abuse – Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Between Children in Schools and Colleges

The DfE guidance, Keeping children safe in education 2023 advises schools and colleges on how to prevent and respond to reports of sexual violence and harassment between children. We understand that sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of **any** age and sex, and it can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children. Any child experiencing this will find it stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment. What may start as bullying could easily escalate into sexual harassment between children.

Our staff are aware of the importance of:

- making clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is **not** acceptable, will **never** be tolerated and is **not** an inevitable part of growing up; dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them
- **not** tolerating or dismissing sexual violence or sexual harassment as “banter”, “part of growing up”, “just having a laugh” or “boys being boys”; and
- challenging behaviours, potentially criminal in nature, where there is sexualised physical contact

Further information can be found in the **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**.

How to deal with bullying

When you are being bullied:

- Try to ignore the bully, they are looking for a reaction from you
- Do not fight back, you may get hurt or make the situation worse for yourself
- Get away from the situation as quickly as possible
- Don't reply to an abusive message/text
- Don't blame yourself if you are being bullied

After you have been bullied:

- Tell a teacher or another adult in school
- Tell your family
- If you are scared to tell a teacher on your own, ask a friend to go with you
- If you do not feel comfortable speaking to a member of staff, you can report any incident using a 'Bullying Report Form' from the school reception and library.
- Another option is to email a teacher or the wellbeing email address well-being@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk or safeguarding@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk
- The wellbeing QR code, found on signage around school, is another means of sharing your concerns
- If you have received an abusive message/text, do not delete it, show it to a parent or teacher

When you are talking about bullying with an adult, be clear about:

- What has happened to you
- How often it has happened
- Who was involved
- Who saw what was happening
- Where it happened
- What you have done about it already

Bullying
Don't suffer in silence
Don't stand by and let it happen

Appendix 2 - Bullying Report Form

QUEEN MARY'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLYING REPORT FORM	
Name (person reporting)	
Name of the person being bullied if you are a friend	
Write a brief account of what happened	
Date of incident/s	
Was anyone else involved? If so, who?	
Were there any witnesses? If so, who?	

When you have completed the form above, please hand it in to **Miss Naguthney** through the front reception, or to Mrs Hayden or Mrs Sarwar in the Pastoral Hub above the library or any other member of staff who you feel you can approach. The matter will be dealt with carefully.

Signature:

Date:

Appendix 3 - Further Advice and Help

List of useful websites for students, parents and teachers:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying-and-cyberbullying/>

www.kidscape.org.uk

www.familylives.org.uk/

<https://www.gov.uk/bullying-at-school/reporting-bullying>

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zyb43j6>

<https://www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/children.html>