



Wrexham Anti-Bullying Guidance for Parents/Guardians 2015



Bully's hurt



you don't let
them do it.

INTRODUCTION

The Wrexham County Borough Council Anti-Bullying Guidance for Parents/Guardians has been developed to equip parents/guardians with relevant information regarding what to do if your child is involved in a bullying incident/s. It forms part of a series of three guidance documents aimed at schools, pupils and parent guardians and replaces the previous single guidance document 'Wrexham Anti-Bullying Strategic Guidance 2011'

Bullying is one of the key issues about which children and young people express their concern. Wrexham County Borough Council affirms the right for every child to be safe to learn, to develop healthy relationships and to achieve optimally.

Victims need to be kept safe and bullies need to be helped to change their behaviour and have the opportunity for any underlying emotional needs to be met.

Bullying by technology (cyberbullying) has been reported globally, nationally and locally as an increasing concern which presents an increasing challenge and one which benefits from wider partnership – working particularly in collaboration with the Police.

Parents/Guardians can help schools to tackle bullying by talking to their child about bullying and the impact that it can have on victims. Whether your child is a victim of bullying or involved in bullying behaviour there are things that you can do to address it.

Is it Bullying?	What should you do if your child is being bullied?
<p>It is if individuals or groups are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calling your child names • Threatening him/her • Pressuring your child to give someone money or possessions • Hitting your child • Damaging your child's possessions • Spreading rumours about your child or your family • Using text, email or social media to write or say hurtful things about your child (cyberbullying*) <p>It is also bullying if your child feels hurt because of things said about their ethnic background, religious faith, gender, sexuality, disability, special educational need, appearance or specific issues in your family*.</p>	<p>Talk to school staff about the bullying. The first contact point is your child's class/form teacher. They can be contacted on [insert telephone number] or by leaving a message at the school reception.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will help to sort out what action to take if you can bear in mind that the teacher may have no idea that your child is being bullied or may have heard conflicting accounts of an incident. • Be as specific as possible about what your child says has happened; give dates, places and names of other pupils involved. • Make a note of what action the school intends to take. • Ask if there is anything you can do to help your child. • Stay in touch with the school; let them know if things improve as well as if problems continue.
<p>* Bullying can be very serious for the person who is being bullied and they could feel upset enough to hurt themselves. If your child is involved in bullying they could get into trouble. In some cases bullying is a crime and could get them into trouble with the police. Help your</p>	

child to understand that colleges, universities and employers regularly look at social media sites like Facebook and if they are involved in bullying they may harm their future education and job prospects.

Wrexham Anti Bullying Project:

If your child's school is part of the Wrexham Anti Bullying Project, encourage them to complete an anonymous Bullying Referral Form. This lets school know that there is a problem without identifying your child and steps can be taken to tackle bullying. If your child's school is not part of the project, then encourage it to do so.

What will the school do?

Our School does not tolerate bullying. This is what we can do about bullying:

- Work to make sure that the person being bullied is safe
- Work to stop the bullying happening again
- Provide support to the person being bullied
- Take actions to ensure that the person/s doing the bullying learn not to harm others

Families who feel that their concerns are not being addressed appropriately by the school might like to consider the following steps:

- Check with the school anti-bullying policy to see if agreed procedures are being followed
- Discuss your concerns with other parents
- Make an appointment to discuss the matter with the Headteacher and keep a record of the meeting

If none of these things help, then you could write to the chair of governors explaining your concerns and what you would like to see happening, write to the Head of Lifelong Learning at Wrexham County Borough Council, or write to the Lead Member responsible for Education at Wrexham County Borough Council.

The following are a list of sample letter that may help if you decide to take this route:

Sample Letters

If your child is being bullied it is important that they keep a diary or you keep one on their behalf and that if an initial phone call or visit to the school doesn't resolve the problem, you put your concerns in writing.

Letter to Class/Form Teacher (or Head of Year)

Dear Ms Smith,

When I spoke to you/saw you yesterday and explained how upset my daughter Mary was due to bullying by Jane Brown, you said you would do some work with the class/monitor the situation/ speak to Jane's parents/keep me informed. Mary knows that she must tell you if she has any further problems. Can we please have a chat/meeting in a couple of weeks to review the situation?

Yours sincerely,

Letter to Headteacher

Dear Mr Jones,

I have been dealing with Ms Smith over the bullying of my daughter Mary by Jane Brown. Despite discussing this, the bullying is still going on. Can you please let me know what you can do to resolve this problem and how it will be monitored? Is it possible for you to increase supervision at the time most of the bullying happens at break/in the playground/in the corridor/in the changing room? Can I please have a copy of the school bullying policy? Please put a copy of my complaint onto Mary's file, together with your written response.

Yours sincerely,

Letter to Chair of Governors (get his or her name from the school secretary and send the letter to the school address)

Dear Mrs Green,

I enclose a copy of a letter I sent to Mr Jones on [insert date]. Unfortunately, despite writing/speaking to Ms Smith, the class/form teacher/Head of Year and the Headteacher, my daughter Mary is still being bullied by Jane Brown. As you will see I have asked the Head what strategy he can introduce to stop the bullying but I am not satisfied with his response/the bullying has continued. Please investigate my complaint and tell me what steps the governors intend to take to halt the bullying of my daughter. As this matter is unresolved, I'd like a copy of Mary's school record to see what action has been taken on my early complaints.

Yours sincerely,

Letter to the Head of Lifelong Learning/Lead Member for Children's Services & Education (at Wrexham County Borough Council, Guildhall, Wrexham, LL11 1AY)

Dear Mr Davies/Dear Councillor Williams

I enclose copies of correspondence with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of [insert school name] where my daughter Mary continues to be bullied by Jane Brown. I have asked what measures the school intends to introduce to deal with the bullying. The response has been unsatisfactory because the bullying has not stopped/I have not been told what the school is doing about the problem. Please make a formal investigation into my complaint and issue a report. I note from Mary's school record that bullying incidents have been recorded/bullying incidents have not been recorded/the file fails to reveal what action was taken/the file reveals action was taken but it has not been successful. Can you please tell me how many other complaints of bullying there have been to the Local Education Authority about this school in the last 12 months? I'd like the help of Local Education Authority staff to ensure the safety of my daughter at this school.

Yours sincerely,

Useful Links

youngwrexham.co.uk

www.kidscape.org.uk/advice/advice-for-parents-and-carers

www.bullying.co.uk

www.childline.org.uk/Explore/Bullying/Pages/Bullying

www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying-and-cyberbullying

www.thinkuknow.net

Don't BE a Bully be a buddy

BE A
BULLY
YOUR PERIL

