

WHAT KINDS OF BULLYING CAN BE IDENTIFIED

Many things can be described as bullying. Sometimes misunderstanding between friends or false messages being passed by a third party can often lead to unhappiness. Such things are very upsetting to young people.

Sometimes the problem is more serious. We identify five main kinds:

1. **Physical Violence** - whether it is minor or severe, persistent or a one off.
2. **Verbal Abuse** - including sexual and racial abuse.
3. **Intimidation** - threats of any kind.
4. **Sexual Harassment** - crude remarks, unwanted touching, direct assault.
5. **Extortion** - demanding money and equipment - often consented because of the victims apparent willingness to comply.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO!!

**Support your child -
bullying does not have to happen**

- Believe what they are saying ▪▪
- Gently determine the facts ▪▪
- Calmly assure them of your support and the school's ▪▪

SPOTTING THE SIGNS

As a parent you can help us detect potential bullying by being aware of the possible signs

Here are some signs of the more obvious indications:

- Fear of walking to or from school
- Not wanting to go to school
- Frequent headaches, stomach aches etc
- A decline in the standard of school work
- Loss of or damage to clothing, books etc
- Change of personality; not as happy as usual or not wanting to talk about school
- Frequent loss of or unusual requests for money
- Not sleeping well
- Bruises, scratches etc
- Obvious distress but will not "talk about it"

It is generally a combination of several of the above that point to bullying. ONE sign does not necessarily mean that your child is being bullied but you might want to contact the School anyway.

CONTACT THE SCHOOL

(01691) 664400

- Don't let the problem get out of hand before reporting it ▪▪
- Contact your child's Pastoral Leader and explain your suspicion ▪▪
- Try to arrange a meeting with the Pastoral Leader as soon as possible ▪▪
- Encourage your child to be 'open' with the Pastoral Leader ▪▪
- Reassure your child - tell them that the school cares and will not let them come to harm ▪▪
- Contact the Headteacher or other senior member of staff ▪▪

Telephone Help Lines:



Childline : 0800 1111



Anti-bullying Campaign : 020 7378 1446



Kidscape : 0207 730 3300



The Marches School and Technology College : 01691 664400
(during school hours)



Governors: Mr R Pearson and Mrs S Bywater : c/o 01691 664400
(during school hours)

WHAT THE SCHOOL WILL DO

- Investigate the problem as soon as we know about it ▪▪
- Deal with anyone found guilty of bullying ▪▪
- Work with you and your child to prevent further bullying ▪▪
- Monitor the outcome of our actions ▪▪
- Keep you informed of what we are doing ▪▪

Whatever you think the problem might be, please make contact and get it sorted out sooner rather than later. It won't get worse if you contact us. It probably will if you don't. Together we can break the cycle.