

Guide to Anti-Bullying

5 Minute Facts

What is bullying?

Bullying is repetitive, intentional hurting of one person by another, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be carried out physically, verbally, emotionally or through cyberspace.

What does the law say about bullying?

Children's Services and educational establishments have a duty, under the Children Act 2004 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Government's Safeguarding Guidance 2006, states that "all settings in which children are provided with services should have in place rigorously enforced anti-bullying strategies."

Although bullying in itself is not a specific criminal offence in the UK, it is important to bear in mind that some types of harassing or threatening behaviour – or communications – could be a criminal offence, for example under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, the Malicious Communications Act 1988, the Communications Act 2003 and the Public Order Act 1986.

If staff working with children and young people feel that an offence may have been committed they should seek assistance from the police.

What do we have in Bolton?

In Bolton, we have an Anti-Bullying Steering group. This multi-agency strategy is produced and over-seen by a steering group led by Children's and Adult's Services involving partners from the statutory and voluntary sectors.

The aims and objectives of the steering group are to:

- Develop, implement and monitor Bolton's anti-bullying strategy incorporating the needs, views, perceptions and ideas of children, young people, parents and staff
- Support all settings and services in accessing and developing effective anti-bullying policies and practice by providing high quality information, advice, training and development
- Ensure these training and development approaches emphasise the need to protect and support the victims of bullying; and also the need to help the children doing the bullying to understand the causes and consequences of their bullying

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What can families and practitioners do?

You can contact these agencies for support:

- **www.actionforchildren.org.uk**
- **Bolton Young People's Health Centre**
9a Churchgate, Bolton, BL1 1HU.
Tel: **01204 462444**
- **www.theparallelnet**
- **www.bridgewater.nhs.uk/bolton/the-parallel**
Tel **01204 332323**
- **healthyschools@bolton.gov.uk**
Tel: **01204 337852** (school support and resources to support anti-bullying work within education settings).
- **Royal Bolton Hospital**
Minerva Road, Farnworth, Bolton, BL4 0JR
Tel: **01204 390659**
- **Primary Mental Care Health workers**
Tel: **01204 463669**

For more information...

Please contact Bolton Safeguarding Children Board at
www.boltonsafeguardingchildren.org.uk

Tel: **01204 337479**

Email: **boltonsafeguardingchildren@bolton.gov.uk**

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