

Advice for Parents/Carers

Advice for parents of children who are bullied

- Don't ignore the problem - talk to the teachers and work together
- Encourage your child to talk to you about his/her feelings
- Try not to over-react - it might frighten your child into silence
- Ask your child if he/she has any suggestions that would help
- Find out if your child feels safe and protected
- Take any threats of suicide or other desperate pleas seriously and seek help - children sometimes go to extremes if they are miserable
- Help your child develop strategies for dealing with and reporting bullying - Kidscape has advice on www.kidscape.org.uk
- Praise your child, tell him/her how much you love and support them
- Try to sort out the bullying at the start, as constructively as possible, with the College
- Encourage your child to develop new interests which might lead to a supportive group of friends - in College and out of College.

Seeking Advice

The following organisations have a good selection of current resources and links to lots of other useful groups:

Kidscape	-	www.kidscape.org.uk
Anti-Bullying Alliance	-	www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
Bullying UK	-	www.bullying.co.uk
Childnet	-	www.childnet.com
Joint Action Against Homophobic Bullying	-	www.intercomtrust.org.uk
The Mental Health Foundation	-	www.mentalhealth.org.uk
Stonewall (Homophobic Bullying)	-	www.stonewall.org.uk

Parent-line 24 hour National free phone line - 0808 800 22 22
 Website - www.familylives.org.uk

Advice for parents/carers of children who are bullying

- Calmly ask your child if he/she can explain what has happened and why
- Find out if there are ways you can work together to stop his/her behaviour
- Explain that the bullying must stop—there is no compromise on this
- Explain how frightening the bullying is for the victim and encourage empathy
- Criticise the bullying behaviour, but don't reject your child or label him/her as a 'bully' (*'What you did was wrong' not 'You're a terrible person or a bully'*)
- Look for good behaviour from your child and praise it
- Tell you child you know he/she can change bullying behaviour and that your child is NOT really a bully. Be confident that your child will change
- Help your child to develop new interests and/or friends away from bullies
- Spend as much time with your child as you can, especially listening to his/her concerns. Sometimes children bully as a way of getting attention
- Make it clear that you do not accept bullying behaviour and there will be consequences such as loss of privileges if the bullying does not stop.

Be aware that unlawful cyber bullying can and has resulted in the arrest of young people and the confiscation of home computers. Bourne Community College would not wish this to happen to anyone.

Please impress upon your child that they should: **'think before they act - and be responsible'**

Our Mission:
 To ensure every student achieves great outcomes to flourish and be successful
 To have high expectations of all staff and students
 To respect those in our community locally, nationally and internationally

Our Vision:
 To be the school of choice and the Learning Hub for the locality

Our Values:
 Our values respect the charter of the UNICEF rights of the Child and our Bourne ID mirrors this. We gained GOLD status as a rights respecting School and are building on this great achievement.

Our strap line:
 Aspiration, Innovation, Motivation



Aspiration, Innovation, Motivation

Anti-Bullying, Racism, Homophobia and Transphobia Policy 2022/23

"The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all actions concerning children"

Article 3 - UNCR

Bourne Community College is committed to being a safe and inclusive College where everybody's well-being is paramount. It is only in such an environment that learning and personal development will thrive.

Behaviour that causes harm or threatens the physical or emotional well-being of members of the Bourne Community College (students, staff and parents), will not be tolerated in any form wherever it originates, be it home, college or outside school. In this context any reported incident will be listened to, taken seriously, followed up and dealt with.

Bourne Community College realises to ignore harmful or threatening behaviour is an act of permitting it.

At Bourne Community College

we define bullying as repeated behaviour that intentionally hurts, frightens, intimidates or threatens others, so impacting on their well-being.

we define a racist, homophobic or transphobic incident as any incident which is perceived to be racist, homophobic or transphobic by the victim, or another person.

Bullying can happen even in the best school. What can you do about it?

- Tell someone you trust - a teacher, parent, carer or another adult.
- Contact the Bourne text line – 07546 125598
- Complete the online form on the Bourne portal

BOURNE BEATS BULLYING

Victims of Bullying

- can expect staff to listen sympathetically and privately
- can expect to have the matter followed up and dealt with
- can expect support and protection until the problem is solved

Bullies, Racists, Homophobics and Transphobics

- can expect to have the matter followed up with consequences for them
- will be helped to understand and change their attitude and behaviour
- can expect their parents/carers to be informed and involved
- should understand it is for victims and adults to decide if the Police need to be involved. (Causing Alarm, Harassment and Distress through bullying is an offence in Law)

Behaviour Policy

Bourne Community College, where appropriate, will act within its Behaviour Policy to impose disciplinary penalties to regulate bullying conduct of students away from school, even if the conduct originates from home. (National Government Guidance July 2015). This would be particularly pertinent in cases of cyber bullying.

For those parents/carers who suspect their child is being bullied or racially, homophobically or transphobically abused please report the matter to the College.

National research surveys undertaken reveals that students are reluctant to tell. Students **SHOULD NOT** think that telling parents/carers or teachers will make it worse. Our experience tells us that reporting matters is the best way of supporting your child and helps us to correct any anti-social or unpleasant behaviour.

Most reported incidents are swiftly dealt with and brought to a positive conclusion. Some issues of this nature you can appreciate are complex, involving a difficult set of circumstances to investigate and manage. Bourne makes a pledge to act professionally and fairly with all reported incidents in the interests of all parties concerned.

We are grateful to parents/carers for their full support in helping us to investigate and conclude matters fully.

Please emphasise to your child that they should not feel embarrassed, guilty or believe the situation will get worse. Unless we know as parents/carers and teachers what the problem is, we cannot begin to resolve the situation.

BOURNE BEATS BULLYING

It's OK to tell and keep telling

Types of Bullying



Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, taking belongings or making threats of violence

Verbal - name calling, sarcasm, spreading harmful rumours or stories, cruel teasing



Emotional - excluding, tormenting, ridiculing, humiliating, threatening gestures

Racist, Homophobic or Transphobic - using racist, homophobic or transphobic taunts, comments, gestures or graffiti

Sexual - making or writing offensive or abusive comments, slurs or gestures

Cyber or Online*

From **mobile phones** - threatening or abusive use of mobile phones by phoning, texting, taking or sending films or pictures

From **computers** - threatening or abusive cyber (Online) conduct through emails, posting comments, pictures or films, chat rooms or forums, creating web sites.

*Cyber bullying

'Bystanding' - A note of caution - In cyber bullying, bystanders who react or look at bullying material can easily become perpetrators simply by passing on or showing to others images or words designed to humiliate. Such conduct is seen as actively supporting cyber bullying by Bourne and the Police.

A Code of Conduct

- Your child should always respect others and be very careful what they say online or in texts taking care what images they send.
- Your child should not forward any rude or nasty messages or pictures that they have received about someone else as they could be assisting the bully and they could even be accused of spreading the cyber bullying themselves. If in any doubt delete material straight away.

BOURNE BEATS BULLYING

As a parent/carer if you see your child is:

- withdrawing more into themselves
- feigning illness and not wishing to come to College
- losing their confidence
- less motivated than before

you should talk to someone

We would advise you to contact one of our Leaders of Year as follows:-

Year 7	- Miss K Davies kdavies@bourne.org.uk
Year 8	- Mrs S Savage ssavage@bourne.org.uk
Year 9	- Mrs R Tibbetts rtibbetts@bourne.org.uk
Year 10	- Mrs S Whitlock swhitlock@bourne.org.uk
Year 11	- Miss A Chappell achappell@bourne.org.uk

Our highly trained Student Support Team are in a good position to deal quickly with your concerns, and in any event, will liaise with your child's Form Tutor or Leader of Year as appropriate. We have trained Peer Mediators who can help too.

Bourne Community College staff make a pledge to make contact within 48 hours of a reported incident, with further subsequent communication taking place. Parents/carers are encouraged to let the College know of further difficulties and for all parties to maintain an open dialogue in the proceeding weeks.

Parents/carers should feel relaxed about doing this.

Involving the Police?

Nevertheless it is advisable to discuss steps with us first as many issues can be dealt with in College and can involve our Prevention Youth Officer, who regularly assists us, or our Community Support Officers.

If you choose to contact the Police separately, we will support you in your decision. However, we have been asked to point out that once it is recorded as an incident with the Police, they have no choice other than to deal with it