

Bullying

Bullying is any act carried out by a group or individual, repeatedly over time against a target who cannot defend themselves, that intentionally causes harm, either physically or emotionally. Bullying behaviour may be direct or indirect.



Direct forms include:

- physical violence
- threats of violence
- verbal assaults and taunts
- the destruction of property
- extortion
- unwanted sexual interest or contact

Examples of indirect forms include:

- ignoring
- withdrawal of friendship
- malicious gossip and spreading rumour
- abusive or oppressive graffiti
- cyber-bullying

Four main types of bullying can be identified:

- **Physical:** hitting, kicking, taking or hiding belongings
- **Verbal:** name calling, teasing, insulting, writing or sending unkind notes or messages, including cyber-bullying
- **Emotional:** being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting looks, spreading rumours
- **Cyber:** email and internet chat room misuse, mobile phone threats by text, calls, social websites.

There is no "hierarchy" of bullying - all forms of bullying should be taken equally seriously and dealt with appropriately.

At Charters School, we believe that all children have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment. Children should be free from harm by both adults in the school and other students. Bullying of any kind is not in line with our core values (Unity, Respect, Excellence) and cannot, therefore, be tolerated at Charters. As with many large institutions, bullying will occur at Charters but we are determined to address any such issues and move as quickly as possible to a resolution.

In this section, there is further information on peer on peer abuse and cyberbullying however, places you can find out more information include:

- <https://www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/>
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/>