

Parkside



PARKSIDE ACADEMY
“A SAFE PLACE TO LEARN”

Are you worried about problems your child is having at school?

You should:

- Listen to your child's explanation of the problem – but remember that there are usually two sides to a story.
- Phone and speak to your child's Year Leader or Mrs Evans, the Inclusion Manager as soon as possible or arrange a convenient time to come to school for a meeting.
- You will achieve more by staying calm – remember that emotions may be raised for you because your child is involved.
- Remember that in a school of 800 pupils, the Year Leader might not know immediately about your child's problem – be prepared for her/him to say they will investigate and get back to you.
- Find out what the school is doing (or will do) about your concern and when.
- Ask what you can do to help and support your child.
- Ask to be kept informed at an agreed interval or agree a date for a future meeting.

Is it bullying?

At Parkside Academy, bullying is recognised to be deliberately hurtful behaviour, usually repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

Bullying may be

- Physical e.g. hitting, kicking, damage to possessions
- Verbal e.g. constant teasing / name-calling
- Emotional e.g. ridiculing, humiliating
- Sexual e.g. unwanted physical contact, abusive comments
- Cyber e.g. threatening or hurtful texts

It is also bullying if your child feels hurt because of things said about their ethnic background, religious faith, sexuality, disability, special educational need or appearance.

What should you do if your child is being bullied?

Talk to school staff about the bullying. At Parkside, your first contact point to report concerns about bullying is your child's Year Leader or Mrs Evans, Inclusion Manager, on **01388 746396**

How you can help:

- It will help to sort out what action to take if you do not jump to conclusions and do allow staff to investigate.
- Please do not remove your child from school or keep them at home if there is a problem. They need to be in school for issues to be resolved.
- It does not help if you make comments or reply to others' comments on Facebook etc. This simply spreads the problem and makes it more difficult to tackle.

What will the school do if it is bullying?

Parkside Academy does not tolerate bullying. It is always unacceptable behaviour in whatever form.

As a school, we will:

- Work to make sure that the child being bullied is safe.
- Ensure that the child is listened to in an appropriate setting
- Make every effort to establish the facts

- Take appropriate action to address your child's concerns and ensure, as far as possible, that there is no re-occurrence
- Take actions to ensure that the person doing the bullying learns not to harm others.

The DfE recommends that schools should record all incidents of bullying. It is a requirement that schools report racist and homophobic bullying incidents to the Local Authority.

What if I am not satisfied?

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

Discuss your concerns with Mrs A. Wise, Deputy Headteacher (Pupil Support).

Make an appointment to discuss the matter with Mrs L. Davies, Headteacher.

If you need further support or information at any stage or the problem remains unresolved, you might like to ring

- Parentline Plus 0808 8002222
- Kidscape 020 7730 3300
- Bully Free Zone 01204 454958

Should you try all of the suggestions above and still not feel satisfied, you can make a formal complaint. All schools have a complaints procedure. Ask for a copy at reception.