



Bullying in Our Community

A Guide for parents, carers and
adults supporting children
and young people.



Leicestershire
County Council



Bullying in our community

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Bullying is a social phenomenon and can be found inside and outside school, in the work place or in the community. In fact it is found wherever groups of individuals meet and socialise. Schools are under a statutory duty to have a pupil behaviour policy (including an anti-bullying policy) which clearly describes what is done to prevent bullying in school and what will happen in the event of a bullying incident taking place.

Bullying outside school must be addressed because it can have a serious and long lasting effect on the target's emotional and mental health. This can lead to school phobia, truancy, poor academic achievement, low self-esteem and, in extreme and tragic cases, suicide.

It is the responsibility not only of the school community but society as a whole to do everything in its power to eradicate bullying.

Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council have created this booklet through working in partnership with schools, parents, other agencies and voluntary bodies because they seek to create a fair, just and violence free community.

We take the "community" to mean any place outside of the school that is frequented by children and young people, with or without the presence of supervising adults. This could include the home, youth centres or clubs where adults may be present and on the routes to and from school (be it on foot or by public or school transport)

The majority of children and young people prefer being outside within their own localities to gather and socialise. This will often be on streets local to home or in public spaces, parks and shopping precincts or centres. These are informal areas where they are free to indulge in their own activities without adult influence.

Community based bullying is often different to bullying in the school environment.

There have been four main types of bullying behaviour associated with bullying in public spaces:

'Barging in' where a group of children and young people (usually older than the victims) forcefully involve themselves in the activities of another group.

'Extortion' where through coercion or threats, individuals are made to behave against their will. Handing over money, possessions or sweets are typical examples but it could also involve them being forced into anti-social behaviour such as stealing.

'Intimidation' where children or young people are physically assaulted or intimidated for no specific reason other than to amuse the bullies.

'Name calling' where a child or young person is verbally intimidated with or without provocation.

Bullying motivated by prejudice such as bullying related to race, homophobia and disability is just as likely to happen outside school. In fact victimisation and bullying in the community is a serious problem for a significant number of children and young people.

Research indicates that boys are more likely to be bullied outside school than girls whether it is in a rural or urban area. It may be that bullying of boys is physical, direct and highly visible and thus easier to recognise. However with the recent growth of cyber bullying (bullying by electronic means such as via mobiles or computers) which often involves girls, the figures may even out.

What we do know is that bullying which starts in the community is more likely to spread to the schools rather than vice versa. For example approximately 60% of children and young people who have been subject to cyber bullying know that the bullies come from their school. So even if the victim refuses to go to school they can still be a target of abusive, offensive text messages, emails and picture or video clips.

Schools are the hub of the community so they are central to addressing bullying outside school. Schools are now committed to working with local agencies and community partners to reduce this form of bullying. Legislation and guidance has further empowered schools to actively respond to the concerns of parents and children and young people.

This booklet clarifies the role and responsibilities of schools and other agencies as well as directing parents to sources of help, guidance and support if their child is bullied in the community.

Bullying behaviour includes

- ✗ **Physical bullying** - punching, kicking, fights and pushing, stealing or hiding belongings and sexual assault.
- ✗ **Verbal bullying** - name calling, shouts of abuse, offensive or sexual remarks and threatening language.
- ✗ **Indirect bullying** - intimidation, dirty looks, starting/ spreading rumours, exclusion from friendship groups, isolation, writing on books, bags, walls and bus stops or displaying literature or materials of a racist, sexist or pornographic nature.
- ✗ **Cyber bullying** – nasty texts, emails, abusive or intimidating telephone calls

Several
Times
On
Purpose



Start
Telling
Other
People

What is Bullying?

“Behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally”

How can I tell if a child or young person is being bullied?

Signs to look out for:

- poor attendance at school/ lateness or unwillingness to attend school
- deterioration in work and concentration levels
- anxiety
- insecurity
- feeling isolated/ lonely
- withdrawal from social situations - reluctance to socialise
- lack of friends
- low self-esteem
- having negative views of themselves (ugly, failures, stupid, ashamed)
- depression
- suicidal thoughts
- lacking in trust
- more demanding of attention - seeking approval

More physical indications can include:

- complaints of headaches
- bed- wetting
- complaints of stomach ache
- vomiting
- fainting
- hunger
- sadness
- sleeping difficulties

Have you noticed?

- torn clothes
- missing possessions
- unexplained cuts, bruises
- damaged books - pages missing
- the pupil asking for extra money

Responding to bullying incidents

What action can you take?

If the bullying incident takes place outside school you are able to respond in several ways.

The following sections outline the potential course of action you can take and who you can turn to for advice and support.

The role of the school in addressing bullying out of school

If your child is bullied outside school, whether it is by another pupil of the same school or from another school, you should report the incident to the school(s) concerned.

They have a duty to respond in an appropriate manner.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the subsequent guidance "Safe to Learn" has clarified the situation

School anti-bullying policies:

Schools have to have an anti-bullying policy that addresses all forms of bullying. It should make clear the measures that can be taken to effectively respond to bullying incidents whether inside or outside school.

Schools have the power to impose a range of sanctions against pupils who are involved in bullying incidents outside school. The policy must include measures to be taken with a view to

"encouraging good behaviour and respect for others on the part of pupils and, in particular, preventing all forms of bullying among pupils"

Schools have a duty to work with other agencies to safeguard and promote the well being of pupils. This means that it is reasonable to expect a school to support a pupil by working with the police, other agencies and other schools even if the bully does not attend the victim's school

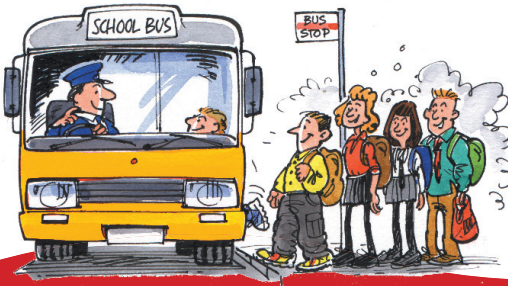
Bullying on a school bus:

Incidents involving pupils from the same school

Should be reported to the school at the earliest opportunity. School staff are in the best position to carry out an investigation into an incident concerning their own pupils as they will know those involved.

Schools have a duty to respond to reported incidents of bullying and any information received is treated seriously and in confidence. However, if a pupil's safety is at risk then school staff cannot keep the information confidential and will have to follow local safeguarding procedures. Appropriate action will be taken and sanctions against pupils can include exclusion from school transport.

For the safety of pupils on the school bus, CCTV is fitted on many vehicles and where recordings are available they will be used to identify unacceptable behaviour.



Incidents involving pupils from another school

Parents/carers should still report the incident to their child's school so that the school can offer support. Schools have excellent links with other schools in the area and may have shared behaviour policies. It is reasonable to expect them to inform the other school involved. Equally parent/carers may wish to contact the other school directly.

You can also report bullying and any unacceptable behaviour on the school bus to the Safer Travel Team at Leicestershire County Council. A new confidential online reporting form has been set up to allow anyone to report bullying and disruptive behaviour on the County's school buses.

Visit www.leics.gov.uk/safertravel



**If it's not reported,
it won't get sorted!**

The Safer Travel Team are keen to hear of any incidents and will work with the school to solve the problem. All incidents will be dealt with quickly and effectively and difficult situations handled in a sensitive manner.

Leicestershire County Council's Passenger Transport Unit also has a helpline: 0116 305 8777 or email: passengertransport@leics.gov.uk.

Leicester City's School Transport is organised and managed by Leicestershire County Council therefore City students and parents/cares can use the helpline and reporting system above

Bullying away from school

"The law empowers head teachers, to such extent as is reasonable, to regulate the behaviour of pupils when they are off school site (which is particularly pertinent to regulate cyberbullying) and empowers members of school staff to impose disciplinary penalties for inappropriate behaviour"

(page 7.8 Safe to Learn)

Responding to bullying incidents

Leicester City also has a code of behaviour on school transport

www.leicester.gov.uk

Bullying on transport provided for school trips and matches

Contact the school immediately with full details so that appropriate disciplinary action can be taken.

Bullying on Public Transport

Children and young people use many forms of public transport to travel to & from school. Where there is an incident contact the service provider and inform the school(s) involved.

Where incidents are not related to school travel you should still contact the service provider. (If the incidents involve students from the same school as your child you should make the school aware).



Any incidents involving criminal behaviour should be reported to the police.

What Can I Do as a Parent/ Carer?

If you want to have a confidential conversation with an independent body before taking any action you can ring:

Parentline Plus helpline for advice & support: 0808 800 2222 Text phone for hearing/speech impairments: 0800 783 6783

Kidscape advice line: 08451 205 204 (10am – 4pm weekdays)

It is important for you to record as much detail as possible straight after the incident as it is easy to get confused, upset or forget the sequence of events. Young children in particular may find it difficult to remember the detail of an incident after quite a short time.

Contact the school

- Tell the School about the incident:
- Arrange a meeting with school staff.
- Explain why you want the appointment so that they can investigate before the meeting.
- Give as much detail of the incident as you can providing time, location, what happened, individuals involved as well as names of “witnesses”
- Talk to your child about what they would like to happen and keep them involved and informed of what is happening.
- It is important they feel they have some control over the situation and what happens in the future. They may well be mixing with the bullies inside and outside of school in the future.
- Do they just want the bullying to stop? This will have a bearing on the action the school will take.

NB Leicester City is developing an online reporting system for all types of bullying called ‘Text Someone’. This will allow parents/carers or other interested parties to report an incident to the school via mobile phone or email. This is being piloted in a number of schools during Autumn term 2008. If successful this will be rolled out to all schools from Spring 2009

At the Meeting

- Take written details of the incident with you
- Ask for notes to be taken so that there is a record of what was discussed and agreed.
- Ask for a named contact at school for both your child and yourself
- Agree a plan of action with a time for a follow up meeting

- ✓ Decide if it is best for your son/daughter to attend
- ✓ If it a serious incident it may be that the matter is referred to another agency such as the police.
- ✓ Agree to keep the school informed about any action taken so that they can continue to support your child

After the meeting

- ✓ Give the Head Teacher time to deal with the situation
- ✓ Keep in touch with the school especially if the incidents continue.
- ✓ Keep your child fully informed about what is happening.

If the incidents continue

- ✓ If you are not satisfied with the response and feel the school is failing to address your concerns you can make a formal written complaint to the Chair of Governors. In your letter of complaint – explain what has happened and tell the Chair what you would like as an outcome
- ✓ If you continue to be unhappy with the outcome you can complain to your local Children’s Service, your local Member of Parliament and ultimately to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (see Bullying: A guide to the law).
- ✓ Remember that the most important thing is your child’s well-being and safety—not revenge

Bullying and school attendance

Bullying can be very upsetting for the victim but it is important not to further complicate the situation by keeping your child at home. It is a parent’s legal duty to ensure their child attends school. Discuss the situation with the school as they can authorize absence in appropriate circumstances. Absence from school can have a negative impact on achievement and lead to isolation and loss of friendships and support. This may

have more impact on your child than the bullying itself. If you want to discuss the situation, in confidence, you can talk to the Education Welfare Service (EWS)

EWS Leicester City

Contact: 0116 221 1260 or the Leicester School Anxiety Project: 0116 221 1200

EWS Leicestershire County Council

Contact: 0116 305 6514

Other Agencies

Police If the incident is serious and a crime may have been committed contact the police. (See guidance below on the law).

Housing Office/Tenants Associations

Report incidents to the local Housing Office/Housing Association Officers if you are a council tenant and the incident involves children in your neighbourhood. If you rent private property you can contact the landlord.

Anti-Social Behaviour Local authorities have units to deal with anti-social behaviour. It may be that the bullying incident is part of a wider range of problems in your neighbourhood that may constitute anti-social behaviour. Anti-social behaviour units only get involved if the problem is seen to be both very serious and long running and other agencies have been unable to resolve the problem. Contact your local authority or council for advice (details on page 16). Arrange to meet with other agencies that can offer support and agree ways to resolve the problem.

If the problem escalates mediation may be a way forward. This service is provided by a number of agencies (contact your local council for advice)

Support for you and your child is available from a number of agencies/ services depending on the type of bullying. You will find specific advice, information and support throughout this booklet

Bullying because of.....

Racist and Religious Bullying

Racist or religious bullying is motivated by difference or perceived difference between the bully and the target. The bullying may take many forms (see “Types of bullying behaviour”) and be based on skin colour, dress, accent, religious observances. Such bullying can have a profound effect on the target even in cases where there seems to be little or no malicious intention.

Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council are working in partnership to ensure that all those living in the City and County are able to do so without the fear of discrimination or harassment based on colour, race, religion or ethnicity. We are working actively to ensure that our society is truly inclusive. However many racist or religious incidents go unreported and this makes it difficult for us to act effectively.

If your child has been the target of racist or religious bullying or if you become aware of such bullying, report it! Racist and religious incidents can be reported at any Police Station. Each of the four Leicestershire policing areas has a Hate Crime Officer Tel: 0116 2222222

If you live in the County, incidents may be reported to Leicestershire County Council’s Hate Monitoring Project on 0116 3058263.

Or by completing the on-line reporting form or downloading a copy at:
www.leics.gov.uk/reporthat

If you live within Leicester City you can receive advice from and report incidents to the Race Equality Centre on 0116 299 9800

Bullying within Domestic Violence

Bullying in certain personal relationships can be termed as domestic violence. It can affect children and young people in their own relationships and through witnessing domestic violence in their home or wider family environment.

Proactive and reactive strategies are in place to reduce domestic violence and to provide support and protection for those people affected across Leicester and Leicestershire. If you are worried about your own or anyone else’s behaviour, please contact one of the services listed below.

Research indicates that domestic violence is a world wide issue and affects society as a whole. Domestic violence can affect any of us. The NSPCC Teen Abuse Survey 2005 indicated that; ‘1 in 5 teenage girls have been hit by their boyfriend’ ‘33% experience some form of domestic violence or abuse at home’ and ‘11% see their parents hit each other’.

In order to reduce domestic violence preventative work is being undertaken within schools in Leicester and Leicestershire.

There are many sources of support available in Leicester and Leicestershire for males, females, children, young people and perpetrators affected by domestic violence.

If you would like to speak to someone, confidentially, about experiencing, witnessing or perpetrating domestic violence contact:

Domestic Violence Integrated Response Project 0116 255 0004 (helpline to access support for adults; therapeutic groups for children and young people and for awareness work in schools and other settings)

Safe accommodation & outreach support

Women's Aid Leicestershire Limited
0116 242 6440

Loughborough Women's Aid
01509 237206/01509 552549 or
www.lwa.org.uk

Outreach Workers

Blaby District 07900 226875

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough
01455 633733 / 07966 202181

For signposting and information on preventative work: County Domestic Violence Co-ordinator 0116 3055 6017

Family Welfare Association (work with families who have experienced domestic violence) 0116 242 8450

Open Door Counselling for young people
0116 2232397

Child line 0800 1111

Useful websites:

www.thehideout.org.uk

www.dvirp.co.uk

www.thejitty.com

Homophobic and Transgender Bullying

Homophobic bullying (when a person is victimised because they are or are perceived to be lesbian, gay or bisexual) and transphobic bullying (when a person is bullied because they live or want to live in a gender other than that assigned at birth) are usually caused by the offender's ignorance, prejudice or fear. Young people can be targeted whether or not they identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT). Homophobic and transphobic bullying can happen anywhere, both inside and outside of school, and can be manifest in many different ways.

Statistics show that homophobic and transphobic bullying can impact greatly on students' achievements, relationship building, confidence and general well-being. Young LGBT pupils experiencing bullying may have a higher level of absenteeism, are less likely than their peers to enter higher or further education and are more likely to contemplate or attempt self-harm or suicide.

The whole community needs to be supportive and proactive in order to educate society of the harm caused by homophobic and transphobic bullying. Homophobic and transphobic jokes, comments and stereotypes should be challenged and positive LGBT role models celebrated. Schools should educate young people about LGBT issues and should adopt a zero

Domestic Violence

**'1 in 5 teenage girls have been hit by their boyfriend'
'33% experience some form of domestic violence or abuse at home' and '11% see their parents hit each other'.**

NSPCC Teen Abuse Survey 2005

tolerance approach to homophobia and transphobia - this should be made clear in their policies.

Leicester Lesbian Gay & Bisexual Centre serves Leicester city and the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland. Staff at the Centre are experienced in dealing with LGBT issues and discrimination. They offer youth work services (including youth groups) to young people who are LGBT or questioning their sexual orientation. They can also advocate on behalf of young people who are being victimised and help report incidents to the Police or to schools - anonymously if necessary.

To find out more call 0116 2547412 or go to www.llgbc.com

Homophobic and transphobic hate incidents are under-reported. Leicestershire Constabulary wants this to change. Such incidents can be reported at various places, including police stations, Leicester LGB Centre, Trade and at libraries and community centres. You can also report hate incidents online through Leicestershire County Council's Hate Incident Monitoring Project - go to www.leics.gov.uk/reporhate. In an emergency always dial 999.

Bullying and Disability

SEN and Disabilities – who do we mean?

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 definition of a disabled person is someone who has a:

“...physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities”

The term ‘Special Educational Needs’ (SEN) has a legal definition, referring to children who have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn or access education than most children of the same age.

Children with SEN and disabilities are vulnerable to bullying

This is a diverse group with many skills and talents. They also have a wide range of very different needs. They may get bullied because of their differences but they are a vulnerable group, some of whom may not always have the understanding or skills to

- Recognise they are being bullied.
- Express that they are being bullied.
- Maintain friendship bonds that can protect them against bullying.

Research shows that children and young people with disabilities are more likely to be bullied than their peers. A 2007 Mencap survey found that eight out of 10 respondents had been bullied and six out of 10 had been physically hurt. The Office of the Children's Commissioner found out that disabled children and those with visible medical conditions are **twice as likely** to be bullied as their peers.

Schools & Disability

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended) requires schools to take a more proactive approach to promoting disability equality and eliminating discrimination.

Schools' anti-bullying policies should make it clear that bullying on the grounds of disability will not be tolerated.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 provides powers for a head teacher to take action on behaviour incidents out of school. It is important to inform the

school of any incidents of bullying that happen off site.

Responding to Incidents

A 'one size fits all' approach is unhelpful when supporting children and young people with a range of SEN and disabilities who experience bullying.

The response should be selected with knowledge of the person's particular individual needs. It is essential for parents/carers to work closely with the school to deal with bullying incidents. It is equally important to help your child understand that it is not his fault that he/she is being bullied and that the adults in their life are here to support them.

If the incident is serious and a crime may have been committed contact the police.

A hate incident is any incident where you or someone else has been targeted because they or you are seen as being different; this can be prejudice on the grounds of disability and should be reported.

Useful Websites and resources:

Contact a family – advice, information and support to the parents of all disabled children: www.cafamily.org.uk

Don't Stick It, Stop It – Mencap website campaigning against the bullying of young people with a learning disability: www.dontstickit.org.uk

Mencap – working with people with a learning disability and their families and carers: www.Mencap.org.uk

National Autistic Society – support and

services for individuals who have autism and their families: www.autism.org.uk

Bullying involving Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (DCSF guidance 2008): www.teachernet.gov.uk

Cyber Bullying

Cyber-bullying can be defined as:

“The use of information and communications technology (ICT), particularly mobile phones and the internet, deliberately to upset someone else”

(DCSF Cyber-bullying Guidance 2007)

Unfortunately, unlike 'traditional' bullying that took place (and still does) in the playground, cyber and text bullying can continue long after schools have closed their gates.

Cyber-bullying takes place between children, adults and across age groups.

Most cyber-bullying is via mobile phones, emails, chat rooms and social network sites

Forms that Cyber-bullying can take

- Threats and intimidation
- Harassment or stalking
- Defamation
- Social Exclusion
- Identity Theft
- Posting personal or private information or images
- Manipulation

All research indicates that cyber-bullying

Disability bullying

“Disabled children and those with visible medical conditions are **twice as likely** to be bullied as their peers”.



is a feature of many young people's lives. DCSF research found that 34% of 12 to 15 year olds reported having been cyber-bullied. It is evident that the level of cyber-bullying is increasing and most takes place outside school.

Schools and Cyber-bullying

Schools take cyber-bullying seriously and will have policies to promote awareness and understanding as well as address specific incidents.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 outlines legal power which can relate directly to cyber-bullying. Head teachers have the power 'to such extent as is reasonable' to regulate the conduct of pupils when they are off site or not under the control or charge of a member of staff.

Schools have the power to confiscate mobile phones and ask students to reveal a message or other content on their phone for the purposes of establishing if bullying has occurred. School policies can give staff the power to search through the phone if the pupil is reasonably suspected of involvement.

Support for your child

- ✓ Provide support and reassurance
- ✓ Teach the anti-cyberbullying code to prevent cyber-bullying and support your child to use technology safely
- ✓ Report cyber-bullying to school, provider of the service and the police
- ✓ Record incidents and keep evidence (texts, emails etc)
- ✓ Use blocking facilities on instant messenger, emails and chat rooms.
- ✓ Contain incidents by acting swiftly to remove offensive material.

Cyber-bullying and The Law

Cyber-bullying activities can be criminal offences under a range of different laws, including the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, Communication Act 2003, Malicious Communications Act 1988, Public Order Act 1986, Obscene Publications Act 1959, Computer Misuse Act 1990 and the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Useful Websites and Resources

Childnet: www.childnet-int.org
For more information and advice on all aspects of cyber-bullying

StopTextbully: www.stoptextbully.com
A website dedicated to mobile phone bullying

DCSF Cyber-bullying Guidance: www.teachernet.gov.uk details how to respond to all forms of cyber-bullying including contacting mobile phone operators and social network sites.

Legal Action

Bullying and the Law

Where all else fails you may wish to take legal action to end the bullying.

You should consult a solicitor before proceeding so that you have appropriate advice. The Citizens Advice Bureau or the Law Society can put you in touch with local solicitors.

**The Children's Legal Centre Advice
Line Tel: 0845 456 6811**

**Education Law and Advocacy Unit:
01206 874 807**

www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Since September 2004 the Legal Centre has been able to offer free legal advice about bullying. They can give you initial help, advice and support.

Bullying and involving the Police

Some forms of bullying may amount to criminal behaviour. A child must be over 10 years of age before he/she can be charged. The guidance below outlines what offences may have been committed. It is important to remember that the police can only act if there is sufficient evidence to prosecute. You should record details of the incident and ask your child to write down everything they can remember as soon as possible after the incident. In this way they can give evidence in court by reading the document rather than relying on memory. You should report serious incidents to the police as soon as possible.

In November 2004, The Children's Legal Centre (CLC) provided updated guidance commissioned by the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) in a document called 'Bullying: A Guide to the Law.' It can be downloaded from:

www.childrenslegalcentre.com/

[Templates/Internal.asp?NodeID=90042](http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/Templates/Internal.asp?NodeID=90042) or purchased as a hard copy from the CLC.

It can also be downloaded from the ABA and beyond bullying web site:

www.ncb.org.uk/aba (Resources section),
www.beyondbullying.com (Parents section – Bullying and the Law)

What is Harassment?

Harassment is the intention to cause another 'alarm, distress or torment' by using abusive, threatening or insulting words or behaviour or displaying any writing, sign or other visible representation which is threatening, abusive or insulting.

This is an offence for which you can be arrested if it has happened more than once and is not an isolated incident.

What is Assault?

Assault is an intentional or reckless act that causes the target to apprehend (fear) immediate and unlawful violence. The conduct may take the form of threatening acts, words, gestures or a combination of any two or all three.

The assailant must have the ability to carry out any threat at the time and no application of force is necessary. This is an offence for which you can be arrested.

Reporting Incidents to the Police

In an emergency dial 999. This should be where the offence is still in progress and/or the offender is still present or there is fear that an offence is about to take place.

If the incident is over and there is no fear of immediate continuance, then 0116 222222 should be dialled. You can also call into your local police station to report incidents/crimes.

You should be aware that if you report a crime and a witness statement is taken, then you might be required to attend court to give evidence.

The police will require as much information about the incident as possible, such as what was the offender wearing, were there any witnesses, the exact location, what was said and done etc.

What happens when a crime is reported to the Police?

When a crime is reported an investigating officer will always be appointed and you will be told who that officer is. There will be an initial investigation to try and find witnesses and establish the facts as to what happened. Where there is a named perpetrator, every effort will be made to arrest that person as soon as possible. It should be noted that there are often counter allegations made that the police will also have a duty to investigate fully.

What is the age of Criminal Responsibility?

Any person from the age of 10 years old is deemed to know the difference between right and wrong. Therefore if they are suspected of committing an offence, they can be arrested if necessary.

Young people between the ages of 10 and 16 years (inclusive) will be interviewed in the presence of an appropriate adult (parent/guardian).

Once the investigation is complete there are various ways forward:

1. If the police are unable to establish who the offender was, then the crime will be filed pending any new evidence coming to light.
2. Where the offender has been identified and interviewed, the evidence will be reviewed and a decision made as to what is going to happen to the offender.
3. Offences are graded with a gravity score for that offence. The more serious the offence, the higher the gravity score.
4. If the offence is serious (high gravity score) then the decision will be to charge and bail (if appropriate) to appear in court, providing there is sufficient evidence. This could be for a first offence. The final decision as to whether the case goes to court lies with the Crown Prosecution Service, not the police.
5. If the offence carries a low gravity score and the offender is a juvenile (10-17yrs) and it is their 1st offence then they will be eligible for a **Reprimand**. (only if they admit the offence). In Leicestershire, if a young person receives a Reprimand for an offence they will be contacted by the Youth Inclusion and Support Project (YISP). Support will be offered to avoid further offending.
6. If it is a second offence with a low gravity score then a **Final Warning** is given. (again, only if the offence is admitted)
7. Any further offences would lead to a charge to appear in court. Where a young person is involved as an offender, the Youth Offending Service will be notified. The decision for sentencing (punishment) lies with the court. There are many options available based on the individual case.
8. A further option open to the victims of crime is for the police to administer a restorative outcome. This involves the offender taking responsibility for their actions and taking an agreed course of action to make good with the victim. This kind of disposal will only be administered with the victim's permission.

Report Hate

A hate incident is any incident where you or someone else has been targeted because they or you are seen as being different. Anyone can be a victim of hate because of prejudice against their age, disability, gender identity, race, religion / belief or sexual orientation.

An incident can take many forms – it may be physical, verbal or written.

You may report an incident whether you are a victim, witness, or third party who has become aware of an incident.

If you live in the County, incidents may be reported to Leicestershire County Council's Hate Monitoring Project:

By calling the Hate Incident Monitoring Project on 0116 3058263

Or by completing the on-line reporting form or downloading a copy at:

www.leics.gov.uk/reporthate

A list of reporting centres is also available on the website.

With thanks to:

*Leicester City & County Healthy Schools
Leicestershire Constabulary
Leicestershire Youth Offending Service
Leicester Lesbian Gay & Bisexual Centre
Mencap*

*Mandeep Rupra Consulting
Leicester School Anxiety Project
Leicestershire Education Welfare Service
Leicester City & County Schools
A range of staff across each authority*

*Lead jointly by Leicester City
& Leicestershire County Anti-Bullying
Strategies*

Copies of this booklet are available from County and City Police stations, libraries and schools. It can be downloaded from:

www.beyondbullying.com

www.leics.gov.uk

www.leicester.gov.uk

Useful Contacts and Web Sites

Anti-Bullying Alliance

www.anti-bullyingalliance.org

The web site provides information, support and advice from an alliance of the leading anti-bullying organisations and voluntary groups in England. Provides direct links to organisations such as Childline, NSPCC and Kidscape. You can download a copy of 'Bullying a guide to the law'

ACE (Advisory Centre for Education)

www.ace-ed.org.uk

Beyond Bullying

www.beyondbullying.com

The web site of the Leicestershire County Council, Educational Psychology Service, Anti-Bullying Strategy Team

ChildLine

www.childline.org.uk

Free 24 hour telephone line for children and young people: 0800 1111

The Children's Legal Centre

www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Tel: 01206 872466 (Administration/ Publications)

Tel: 01206 874807 (Education Law and Advocacy Unit)

Education Law Advice Line: 0845 456 6811

Mandeep Rupra Consulting

www.m-rc.co.uk Tel: 0116 251 9484

This organisation provides advice and training to organisations such as schools, youth offending organisations and the youth service on dealing with racist bullying and discriminatory behaviour. The organisation also works with young people exploring the topic of racism, citizenship and identity.

Connexions Leicester/Leicestershire

www.connexions-leics.org

Hinckley	01455 632719
Melton Mowbray	01664 480328
Loughborough	01509 214002
Coalville	01530 812231
South Wigston	0116 2778090
Market Harborough	01858 462309
Leicester	0116 2627254

Leicestershire Constabulary

www.leics.police.uk

Tel: 0116 222 2222 (all non-emergency calls)

Leicester City Council

New Walk Centre, Welford Place, Leicester LE1 6ZG

www.leicester.gov.uk

E-mail: customer.services@leicester.gov.uk

Useful City Contacts

Main Switchboard	0116 254 9922
Attendance Strategy	0116 221 1260
Behaviour Strategy	0116 225 4800
Community Safety Team	0116 252 6005 or 0116 252 7788
School Transport	0116 252 7802
Anti-Social Behaviour Unit	0116 229 3620
Education Welfare Service	0116 221 1200
Leicester Mediation Service	0116 253 2900
Leicester Psychology Service	0116 231 1200
School Anxiety Project	0116 221 1200
Victim Support Leicester	0116 253 0101
Parent Partnership Scheme	0116 258 0666

Leicestershire County Council

County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RA

www.leics.gov.uk

E-mail: information@leics.gov.uk

Useful County Contacts

Main Switchboard	0116 232 3232
Client and Technical Support (Special Needs)	0116 288 5238 0116 257 0494
Community Safety Officer	0116 265 6056
Community Services	0116 265 6988
Youth Inclusion Project (YISP)	0116 260 6000
Passenger Transport Unit	0116 305 8777
Education Welfare Service	0116 265 6326
Educational Psychology	0116 284 5100

Educational Psychology Service
OEM Building, Whiteacres, Cambridge Road,
Whetstone, Leicester LE8 6ZG

The Parent and Carers Council

www.parentcarercouncil.co.uk

E-mail: sue@parentcarercouncil.co.uk,

Tel: 07968 857598 / 07870 688973

Parentline Plus

www.parentlineplus.org.uk Tel: 0808 800 2222

One to one guidance and support for parents