Ysgol Comins Coch
Spring 2026

Ysgol Comins Coch Policy for

The Prevention of Bullying

Date Policy Adopted/Reviewed	Spring 2026
Signed Chair Of Governors	
Date Of Next Review	Spring 2028
Named person for review of this policy:	The Headteacher and SENCo (Assistant Headteacher Pastoral Care)

A Policy for the Prevention of Bullying at Ysgol Comins Coch

This document is a statement of the aims and strategies for the Prevention of Bullying at Ysgol Comins Coch.
It was agreed through a process of consultation with the pupils, parents, teachers and support staff of the school.

Why do we need a policy?

At Ysgol Comins Coch every child has the right to be educated in a safe environment. Every member of the school community is entitled to be safe, both those here to learn and those who are here to provide the learning environment. Bullying is an infringement of that entitlement.

What is bullying?

The Welsh Government: Respecting Others Guidance 2011 states that there are many different definitions of bullying, but most consider it to be:

• deliberately hurtful (including aggression)
• repeated often over a period of time, *while recognising that even a one-off incident can leave a learner traumatised and nervous of future recurrence*
• difficult for victims to defend themselves against.

Individual learners' perspectives on what constitutes bullying is also a key element to take into account.

Bullying can take many forms, but the three main types are:
• physical – hitting, kicking, taking belongings, sexual harassment or aggression
• verbal – name-calling, insulting, making offensive remarks
• indirect – spreading nasty stories about someone, exclusion from social groups, being made the subject of malicious rumours, sending malicious e-mails or text messages on mobile phones.

At Ysgol Comins Coch the term "bullying" is applied to a wide variety of unwelcome physical and non-physical assaults. Unfriendly or threatening looks, insults, rumour spreading, name-calling, teasing, aggressive gestures, tripping up, pushing, kicking, sexual or racial comments are all considered acts of bullying. The use of Mobile phones or computer technology to the same effect is also considered "bullying".

Why are we against bullying?

'Every learner in every school has the right to learn, free from the fear of bullying, whatever form that bullying may take. Everyone involved in a learner's education needs to work together to ensure that this is the case. Schools need to take an active approach to tackle all forms of bullying, and should be taking action to prevent bullying behaviour as well as responding to incidents when they occur'.

Respecting Others Guidance, Welsh Government. Document No: 050/2011.

What types of bullying are there?

Cardiff University Report on Evaluation of School Anti-Bulling Policies 2006 – Example of good practice, states that:

" Bullying can be:
- Emotional – being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical – pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist – racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual – unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic – because of, or focusing on, the issue of sexuality
- Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing"

Welsh Government, Respecting Others 2011, sets out additional guidance for the following identity-based bullying categories:

• bullying around race, religion and culture
• bullying involving learners with special educational needs and disabilities
• homophobic bullying
• sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying
• cyberbullying

What are the signs and symptoms of bullying? (Taken from pupil consultation)

A person may indicate by signs or behaviours that they are being bullied. Everyone should be aware of these possible signs and should investigate if the person;

- Doesn't want to go on the school / public bus
- Is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence
- Becomes aggressive, abusive, disruptive or unreasonable
- Starts stammering
- Threatens or attempts to run away
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- Feels ill in the morning
- Performance in school work begins to drop
- Comes home with clothes torn, property damaged or 'missing'
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises
- Bullying others
- Changes in eating habits
- Is frightened to say what is wrong
- Afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- Gives improbable excuses for their behaviour.

What causes Bullying? (Taken from pupil consultation)

People bully for different reasons.
The reasons could be:

- to feel powerful
- jealousy
- to feel good about themselves
- to be in control
- because they want something (attention, possession or friends)
- because of peer pressure
- to be big/clever
- for fun
- because they are being bullied themselves
- because they see and pick on an easy target (small, won't tell anyone, lonely or different in some way)

How can we prevent bullying?

Parents and school can work together to promote a caring community.
Children will be given the opportunity to discuss issues surrounding bullying during PSHE and circle time as well as across the wider curriculum where appropriate e.g. History, RE, Literacy.
Children will be taught anger management and avoidance strategies through our personal, social and moral curriculum.
Parents can ensure that their child's concerns are listened to and reported to the school immediately, so that we can take appropriate action.

How can we stop bullying?

At Ysgol Comins Coch children are encouraged to report any incident which they consider to be bullying, to the nearest responsible adult – teacher, teaching assistant, mid-day supervisor or parent helper.
They are also encouraged to talk to their parents about anything that they are concerned about.
All adult members of Ysgol Comins Coch agree to a policy of "Zero-tolerance" of bullying. Any report of bullying by a child is taken seriously and the agreed procedure taken.

Procedure for dealing with reported incidents of bullying.
When an incident is reported
All school staff will:

1. Listen to the child's report of the incident.
2. Take notes of names of perpetrators, incident and possible witnesses.
3. Pass this information as soon as possible to the Headteacher or Assistant.
4. On receipt of this information the Headteacher (or Deputy) will investigate the incident, talking to the children Involved.

Because we consider bullying as a serious incident we ask parents to directly inform the headteacher of any concern. Our staff will then monitor, track, report and follow our procedures to deal with concerns.

Parents are asked to:

1. Listen to the child's report of the incident.

2. Take notes of names of perpetrators, incident and possible witnesses.
3. Contact school as soon as possible, by phone, e. mail or in person and pass the information to the Headteacher.
4. On receipt of this information the Headteacher will investigate the incident, talking to all children Involved.

What happens next?

Sanctions for Inappropriate behaviour (Please refer to our Behaviour policy)

1. Incidents will be logged in our "Incident Log". In the case of Bullying, parents of perpetrators are normally asked to come into school to discuss their child's behaviour and future courses of action
2. Perpetrators will usually be kept in at play times and/or lunchtimes. Should a child re-offend by deliberately bullying, temporary suspension from school will be considered by the headteacher.
3. Children who perpetrate frequent acts of bullying may be in need of support from external agencies e.g. behaviour support team; educational psychologist, or support at home from Social Services. Following discussion with parents the appropriate referral will be made. In extreme cases the Headteacher will consider informing the Police.
4. Children who frequently report acts of bullying against themselves may be in need of support from external agencies. Following discussion with parents the appropriate referral to external agencies could be made.

Our school will respond promptly and effectively to all reported incidents of bullying

At Ysgol Comins Coch School we follow certain key points:

- never assume that bullying does not happen in school
- never ignore suspected bullying
- don't make premature assumptions
- listen carefully to all accounts
- adopt a problem-solving approach which moves pupils on from justifying themselves
- follow-up repeatedly, checking that bullying has not resumed.

Reporting of incidents of bullying at our school

Where an incident of bullying occurs it will be dealt with according to this policy and recorded in the school Incident Log. This will be reported to the Governing Body on a termly basis. The information is collated by the LA's Governing Body Section and reported to the LA and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. Every racist incident will be logged separately and reported to the Local Authority on an individual basis.

This policy will be reviewed/ updated at least once every school year. A report is made each term to governors.

CEREDIGION EDUCATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Ysgol Comins Coch

Record of Bullying incidents dealt with by the school during ……term 201_ .

Headteachers must present a report to their Governing Body on a termly basis. The information is collated by the LEA's Governing Body Section and reported to the LEA and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

*A 'proforma' to capture information to decide whether an incident fits the criteria for a bullying incident has already been distributed to schools.

TYPE OF BULLYING	Number of incidents	Was matter resolved- Yes or No or ongoing	Comments
Racial			
Homophobic			
Sexual			
Appearance			
Disability			
Ability			
Gender			
Other			

RACIST INCIDENTS

Welsh Assembly guidance stipulates that schools are duty bound to inform the LEA of all racist incidents.

Although 'racist incidents may have been dealt with, and recorded in the above table, they should also be logged separately here so that the LEA has a record on a termly basis.

RACIST INCIDENTS	Number	Matter resolved Yes /No	Comments

Ysgol Comins Coch

Comins Coch, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion. SY233BQ

Phone 01970 623497. staffcc@cominscoch.ceredigion.sch.uk

Incident / Bullying Report	
Date	
Pupil Complaining	
Alleged offender	
Details of Complaint	
Person recording complaint	
Shared with Headteacher \ Assistant Head \ Other	
Is there a record of previous problems?	
Details of action taken following complaint.	
Signed	

Re-visit of Complaint	
Is the matter resolved?	
What evidence is there to reach that decision?	
Signed	

Re-visit of Complaint	
Is the matter resolved?	
What evidence is there to reach that decision?	
Signed	

Matter resolved and recorded on incident log	
Signed. Person recording initial complaint. Date.	Signed Headteacher / Assistant Headteacher. Date.