

Anti-Bullying Policy

for children and teens

The British Council believes that all Young Learners have a right to a safe and healthy learning environment. The staff, parents and young learners have an obligation to promote mutual respect, tolerance, and acceptance as part of our [Equality Diversity and Inclusion](#) policy.

The British Council will not tolerate behaviour that infringes on the safety or well-being of any Young Learner. A Young Learner shall not intimidate, harass, or bully another Young Learner through words or actions, either online or face-to-face. This behaviour includes direct physical contact, such as hitting, pushing, or shoving; verbal assaults, such as threatening, teasing or name-calling, social isolation, image sharing or manipulation either online or in face-to-face contexts.

The British Council expects Young Learners, parents and/or staff to immediately report incidents of bullying to the Teacher, Duty Officer, Young Learner Assistant or to the [Child Protection and Safeguarding Team](#). Each complaint of bullying will be promptly investigated. This policy applies to Young Learners on British Council premises or partner school premises, during the breaks, and during other British Council activities e.g. trips, visits, or competitions

To reduce and eliminate bullying in our Centres, the British Council provides staff development training or materials in bullying prevention and cultivates acceptance and understanding in all Young Learners to maintain a safe, healthy and inclusive learning environment.

Teachers should discuss this policy with their Young Learners in age-appropriate ways and should assure them that they no form of bullying will be tolerated. Young Learners who bully are in violation of this policy and the behaviour policy and are subject to disciplinary action, behaviour improvement plans and ultimately the possibility of expulsion.

The Young Learner Anti-Bullying Code of Conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Any Young Learner who engages in bullying may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.
- Young Learners are expected to immediately report incidents of bullying to their Teacher Duty Officer, Young Learner Assistant or to the [Child Protection and Safeguarding Team](#).
- Young Learners can rely on staff to promptly investigate each complaint of bullying in a professional manner.
- Investigations will be in French or English, depending upon parent & learner preference.

The actions to prevent bullying include, but are not limited, to the following:

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- All staff, Young Learners and their parents have access to this policy prohibiting bullying and harassment on our web site and other printed materials: at the beginning of the academic year, as part of the “Young Learner Notebook and information” for parents.
 - We will contact parents of young learners who are allegedly involved in incidents or bullying or harassment and set a date for an initial meeting to discuss the way forward to conflict resolution.
 - We make reasonable efforts to keep a report of bullying and the results of investigation as confidential as possible, but where serious allegations exist authorities will be contacted.
 - Staff who witness acts of bullying shall take immediate steps to report and/or intervene
 - People witnessing or experiencing bullying are strongly encouraged to report the incident; such reporting will not reflect on the target or witnesses in any way.
 - We celebrate the UK's anti-bullying week
 - We respect and follow Education National's guidelines on anti-harassment

To prevent bullying, our teams aim to incorporate anti-bullying topics into the classroom curriculum as appropriate. This is an important step in promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, developing new ways of communicating, understanding, and accepting differing values and cultures within the British Council community and helps ensure a safe and healthy teaching & learning environment.