

Anti-Bullying

We know that a concern for children and parents/carers is the potential for bullying when they move to the unknown in a secondary school. It is usual for children transferring to a secondary school, that has much older students, to feel worried. We are well aware of these general concerns and we have good established systems in place to help our new students quickly settle into Secondary School life. As well as support from staff, older students provide help and care to the younger students. Our anti-bullying ethos and our effective response to any issues which arise help our new students feel safe and secure.

Our school's ethos makes it clear that bullying will not be tolerated.

At Southchurch High School students are proud to tell you that Southchurch High School views itself as more than a school, we are a family. Families look after each other and the school community is no different. One example of this strong community approach is the Stepping Stones programme in which Year 10 mentors volunteer to work with the Year 7 students as they transition to secondary school. All students in Year 7 have the opportunity to work with a mentor if they wish.

We have a number of high-profile anti-bullying events during the year. Our annual **BLUE day (Be Lovely and Understanding to Everyone Day)** offers students the opportunity to show their support for anti-bullying by accessorising their uniform with blue.

Our Year 7 PSHE curriculum has a strong anti-bullying focus with an explicit unit studied by all Year 7 which looks at bullying in its widest form including cyber-bullying. We also explore the characteristics of positive friendships so that students are able to identify issues if they are less than explicit.

However, we know that issues can and do occur. We survey parents annually to find out how effective our anti-bullying interventions have been. Typically, the vast majority of parents/carers have never contacted us with an issue related to bullying. Of the small proportion who have, they describe themselves as totally or very satisfied with our response. We therefore ask parents/carers to contact us immediately if you have any concerns so that we can intervene to support the members of our community.

Reporting Concerns

Southchurch High School is keen to work in partnership with parents/carers and so please report any concerns to your child's tutor/Head of Year.