

Anti-Bullying at Portlethen Academy

At Portlethen Academy we are fully committed to providing a safe, welcoming and caring environment for our young people to learn and feel part of. At the heart of our school values is **Respect** and as a school community we are always striving towards fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect between all pupils and staff. Our aim is that everyone, staff, pupils, parents, carers and visitors, should be able to experience a relaxed and secure school environment, where any form of bullying or lack of respect for diversity is neither accepted nor tolerated.

Everyone at Portlethen Academy has a **Responsibility** to make sure that these standards of behaviour and consideration for others are always being met. Although it can often be a difficult thing to do, we encourage anyone who is aware of any bullying taking place to speak to Guidance staff, Year Heads or Clan Leaders, or any trusted member of staff. This is crucial to helping staff respond to any incidents quickly and efficiently.

The Pupil Support Team at Portlethen Academy responds immediately to all bullying incidents brought to our attention; it is extremely hard to respond effectively and appropriately support our young people with bullying issues if we do not know about them. We regularly promote positive decision making around this via whole school assemblies, health weeks, anti-bullying week, clan time and through PSE, promoting the message about building the **Resilience** to not be a bystander and all the ways in which you can step in and help members of the school community if pupils ever witness or suspect bullying.

We urge all parents and carers to encourage their young people to do the same by discussing anti-bullying with them and reminding them regularly about the importance of speaking up if they are aware of any bullying issues. There are links to support and advice on bullying and online safety below:

[Bullying... A guide for parents and carers - respectme](#)

[Online Safety for Parents and Carers - respectme](#)

[Video Guidance for Adults - respectme](#)

[Online Bullying - respectme](#)

Advice for children and young people:

[What is bullying? - respectme](#)

[What are my options? - respectme](#)

[Prejudice-based bullying - respectme](#)

[Children's Rights - respectme](#)

We are currently reviewing our Anti-Bullying policy and have consulted with all pupils via clan days and senior induction. We will soon be seeking views from parents and carers and will then produce a draft of our new policy. We have a pupil group being supported by members of the staff Health and Wellbeing Leadership group, to promote the anti-bullying message throughout school and we would encourage as many pupils as possible to get involved with this.

We, at Portlethen Academy, want all of our pupils to feel safe and free from bullying so that they can enjoy school and reach their potential, each and every day. We are a school community, constantly working on this goal together. Please contact your young person's Guidance Teacher in the first instance if you wish to discuss bullying of any kind and our strong system of House caseload discussions between Guidance Teachers and Jennifer Law, Depute Head (Pupil Support) will then be able to address the situation promptly.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J Law', written in black ink.

Jennifer Law

Depute Head Teacher (Pupil Support)