

What to expect from schools

Schools are required by law to determine measures to encourage and promote good behaviour and prevent all forms of bullying, and this includes bullying that might happen off premises. Schools also have a responsibility to identify concerns early, to prevent concerns from escalating and to take appropriate action to promote the welfare of a child in need of additional support, even if they are not suffering harm or are not at immediate risk. They should also work alongside social services, the police, health services and other services to ensure the safeguarding and promotion of child welfare. The school should have a Designated Safeguarding Lead and Child Protection Policy.

All schools (including academies, free schools and independent schools) must also follow anti-discrimination law contained within the Equality Act 2010. This means staff must act to prevent discrimination, harassment and victimisation in schools. This applies to all schools in England and Wales, and most schools in Scotland.

Under the Equality Act 2010 there are nine [protected characteristics](#) and it is against the law to discriminate against someone because of them.

The law says that schools must identify how they will encourage and promote good behaviour and prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils. All maintained schools (not academies, free schools or independent schools) must have a behaviour policy in place that includes what will be done to prevent all forms of bullying among pupils. This policy is decided by the school. All teachers, pupils and parents must be told what it is. If the family has not been provided with a copy, or do not know where to locate a copy of the Anti-Bullying Policy or Behaviour Policy, they should ask the school administrator or secretary for a copy. Many schools also publish their policies on their school website so you could check there first.