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| Information about BullyingSense Welsh LogoSense Logo with taglineSense Logo |

# **Vulnerable Groups**

Although anyone can be subjected to bullying at any time, some people may be more vulnerable to bullying than others and in certain situations more than others. People might be bullied due to:

* race, nationality or colour
* age
* religion, belief or lack of religion or belief
* gender
* disability, learning difficulty, special educational needs
* sexual orientation – including LGBT
* gender reassignment
* pregnancy or maternity
* marital status
* home circumstances
* appearance, e.g. facial disfigurement, weight, height, spottiness, etc
* social class
* continence or other issues of a personal nature

The following groups of students are also vulnerable:

* Students with specific disabilities (known as disablist bullying);
  + Specific learning disabilities
  + Sensory impairment
  + Physical disabilities
  + Those with additional special educational needs

## **Disablist Bullying**

Studies show that students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are more likely to be bullied than their peers.

Given the particular nature of their special education needs, students at Sense College are deemed to be particularly at risk. They may:

* Be adversely affected by negative attitudes to disability and perceptions of difference
* Find it more difficult to resist bullies
* Be more isolated; not have many friends
* Not understand that what is happening is bullying

1. Have difficulties telling people about bullying.

It is important that we all recognise this vulnerability and remain alert for any possible bullying of individuals or groups.

## **Racist Bullying**

The term ‘racist bullying’ refers to a range of hurtful behaviours, both physical and psychological, which makes a person feel unwelcome, marginalised, excluded, powerless or worthless because of their colour, ethnicity, culture, faith community, national origin or national status. It must be clearly understood that racism involves not only prejudice based on colour and appearance but also prejudices connected with religion and culture, for example Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, and hostility to travellers and gypsies.

Sense recognises that there are other forms of abuse that may not fit into this definition of bullying.

## **Homophobic Bullying**

Homophobic bullying can be hard to recognise because it may be conducted in secret. Sometimes, students may not want to tell anyone about it. An unwillingness to disclose is a distinctive feature of homophobic bullying.

## **Cyber Bullying (bullying online)**

Sense College is committed to identifying and preventing cyberbullying. All students are encouraged and supported to be safe online. If a student is worried about something that he or she has seen on the internet, they should tell a member of staff as soon as possible. Cyberbullying sometimes be traced or tracked.

## **Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment**

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can happen anywhere, including at college. It is important to remember that individuals’ bodies belong to them and they have the right to say “No” to touching that they don’t want. They do not have to put up with comments about their bodies or how they look that make them feel uncomfortable. Unwanted touch or comments can be a form of bullying and Sense College is committed to all members of the college community to be respectful to each other.

Bullying might take place because someone wants somebody else to do something they shouldn’t do, or don’t want to do. This is often known as coercion and may be linked to radicalisation, criminal activity or practices such as forced marriage or female genital mutilation (known as cutting).

It is never right to bully someone. It is important that staff exemplify respectful behaviour at all times and treat any disclosures of bullying seriously. Sense College recognises that both the victim and alleged perpetrator of bullying will require support to stop the bullying.