

Leicestershire Educational Psychology Service: Public Health Anti-Bullying Award Project

Purpose

- To develop the current 'anti-bullying award' overseen by Leicestershire's Anti-Bullying Team within the Education Effectiveness Team.
- The award is currently offered to all schools in Leicestershire who pay to complete it.
- LEPS input involves supporting the antibullying team to update the anti-bullying board using psychological theory, research, and evaluation techniques.
- Funded through public health (three years) as part of their work on suicide prevention and to ensure a focus on emotional wellbeing, belonging, inclusion and sense of community.

Collaboration

- Collaborated with the Anti-Bullying Team and funded through Public Health
- Working with other teams in LA to gather feedback and create links for signposting.



Strategy

The Award

- The updated award will be offered to all secondary schools for free from September 2026
- 3 schools are currently piloting the award.

Literature Reviews

- Literature reviews were conducted for each area of the award to support with updating the criteria and the evidence schools need to meet it.
- The criteria sections are informed by Promoting CYP's ME and wellbeing: A whole school or college approach (Public Health England and DfE, 2021)

Questionnaire

- Questionnaire created to evaluate the project effectively and ensure the questionnaire related to the criteria.
- The questionnaire is aimed towards staff, parents and students to evaluate the impact of award, drawing on psychological theory and research.

Impact

- Schools are provided with up-to-date, psychologically informed, evidence-based, approaches to support anti-bullying practice.
- An improved focus on whole school experience of children.
- Shifting from bullying to wellbeing – by moving towards a relational policy, in which staff are creating kindness and respect for all.
- Taking on a holistic approach by supporting staff wellbeing and helping individuals feel they can create positive changes within the school environment.
- Positive engagement from schools, parents and students.

Next Steps

- To review additional questionnaire created by the anti-bullying team and the governors support office within Education Effectiveness.
- To develop pre-recorded accessible bitesize training (embedded into the award) to enhance staff learning.
- To continue drawing on psychological theory and research.
- To promote to schools in the Summer Term.
- To offer secondary school free access to the updated award from September 2026.