

Identifying Islamophobic Bullying

What is bullying?

Bullying is repeated, harmful behaviour that is intended to make someone feel upset, uncomfortable and unsafe.

What is Islamophobic bullying?

When this bullying targets Muslims because of their faith, or makes reference to Islamic identity or culture, it becomes Islamophobic bullying, and it is as unacceptable as any other type of bullying. Due to the Equality Act 2010, which lists faith as a protected characteristic, Islamophobia is also legally defined as a hate crime.

Why does Islamophobia occur?

Often, when Islam or Muslims are in the news, they become topics of interest and conversation. Because of this, a lot of mistruths circulate which can lead to people holding false and negative views concerning Muslims, their practice, beliefs and culture.

Unfortunately, this can be mirrored by children and young people depending on what they have seen or heard via the internet, family or friends. These misconceptions and prejudices can find their way into the classroom, playground, or online, and can cause harm.

What does Islamophobic bullying look like?

Stereotyping: when people assume all Muslims have certain characteristics this is Islamophobic; there are over 1.5 billion Muslims in the world - about 23% of the world's population are Muslim and they consist of many different races, cultures, languages and practices.

Islamophobic slurs, comments or name calling: when people use negative or aggressive language to refer to Islamic belief, practices or culture. This could be face to face, or online. Difference should be celebrated as it is what makes our schools such great places to be.

Discriminating: This can be intentionally leaving someone out or alienating them on account of their Islamic faith. Our schools are strongest when we think and act inclusively.

What you can do about it

If you have experienced this, or have been targeted in any way because of your faith, it is important to get help from a trusted adult. You can also receive private and confidential support from many organisations.

