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School bullying in primary school

Verified 04 November 2025 - Public Service / Directorate of Legal and Administrative Information (Prime Minister)

Is a student repeatedly subjected to verbal, moral or physical abuse by one or more other students? He is then a victim of **school bullying**. This is an offense punishable by law. Here is the information you need to know to deal with a situation of school harassment.

What is bullying in schools? ^

A pupil is a victim of school harassment when he suffers, **repeatedly**, of **violence** verbal, moral or physical from one or more other students.

These acts of violence are, for example, insults, mockery, bullying, rejection by a group, jostling, beatings, robberies.

School harassment can be committed **inside or outside** of the school.

Bullying in schools leads to **worsening living conditions** of the pupil. This includes anxiety, falling academic achievement and depression.

How to act in the face of a situation of school harassment? ^

The situation differs depending on whether you are a victim, a parent of a victim or a witness to school harassment:

Victim

You must **prevent an adult** from your school. You can, for example, alert the principal, a teacher, the person supervising the canteen, the activity leader at noon or after class.

You also need to talk to your **parents** or someone in your family.

You can also contact the **3018**, national number for victims of harassment.

This number allows you to report the problem of bullying you are a victim of. You will get advice and support to deal with the situation.

Who shall I contact

National number for victims of harassment

To ask your questions anonymously and confidentially about school harassment.

By phone

3018

Open 7 days a week, from 9am to 11pm

Free and anonymous call

Website

e-enfance.org (<https://e-enfance.org/>)

Victim's relative

You must **contact the school management**. You will be invited to present the situation of harassment experienced by your child.

You can also contact the **3018**, national number for victims of harassment.

This number allows you to report the problem of bullying experienced by your child. You will get advice and support to deal with the situation.

Who shall I contact

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Warning

Do not attempt to manage the problem yourself by contacting the perpetrator

Witness

You must **prevent an adult** of the school. He will then take charge of the victim's situation. You can, for example, alert the principal, a teacher, the person supervising the canteen, the activity leader at noon or after class.

You can also contact the **3018**, national number for victims of harassment.

This number allows you to report the problem of bullying you are witnessing. You will get advice and support to deal with the situation.

Who shall I contact

National number for victims of harassment

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How is a case of harassment handled by the school services? ^

The school's management must respect a **protocol** of care.

 **Infographie - Protocol for dealing with harassment in the 1st degree**

1^{er} DEGRÉ : PROTOCOLE DE PRISE EN CHARGE

RÉVÉLATION DE LA SITUATION

➔ Par qui ?

- ✓ Par l'élève victime ou témoin, la famille ou un adulte de l'établissement

➔ Comment ?

- ✓ **Au sein de l'école** : auprès du directeur ou d'un enseignant
- ✓ **Via un canal de signalement extérieur à l'école** (3018, ligne académique, courrier, etc.) : relais auprès de l'inspecteur de l'éducation nationale (IEN) par le référent harcèlement départemental

➔ Que faire ?

- ✓ **Accueil de l'élève victime** : écouter (ressentis et faits), assurer de la prise en charge de la situation par les adultes de l'école
- ✓ **Mise en place de mesures de protection** : renforcer la vigilance de toute la communauté, nommer un adulte référent, mobiliser les élèves proches de la victime
- ✓ **Échanges avec les parents de l'élève victime** : informer, soutenir, assurer de la protection de leur enfant
- ✓ **Information des parents des élèves impliqués** dans la situation, notamment de leurs moyens d'action auprès du 3018 en cas de cyberharcèlement.

PRISE EN CHARGE DE LA SITUATION

➔ En cas de harcèlement ou de cyberharcèlement

Mise en place de la **procédure harcèlement** par l'IEN et le directeur d'école

- ✓ **Signalement de la situation** :
 - dans Faits établissement (niveau 2)
 - au procureur de la République en cas de harcèlement grave et persistant (article 40 du Code de procédure pénale)
- ✓ **Mesures de traitement immédiat de la situation** :
 - Rencontres avec l'élève victime, le ou les témoins, le ou les auteurs, les familles des élèves concernés
 - Mesures de protection de l'élève ou des élèves victimes
 - Mesures conservatoires

- ✓ En cas d'échec des mesures éducatives mises en œuvre et de risque caractérisé pour la sécurité et la santé des autres élèves, **changement d'école de l'élève auteur**
- ✓ **Accompagnement et suivi à long terme** des élèves concernés par les équipes pédagogiques et/ou les conseillers pédagogiques de circonscription, vigilance de l'ensemble des équipes
- ✓ **Mise en place d'actions spécifiques** auprès des classes concernées, voire de l'école



Une **journalisation des faits** par le directeur d'école permettra une traçabilité et un suivi de toutes les actions entreprises jusqu'à la résolution de la situation.

Crédits: Direction de l'information légale et administrative

1- Detection of the situation of school harassment

When the principal is informed of the existence of facts that may constitute harassment, he must bring the teaching team together to discuss the problem.

Interview with the victim

The principal must invite the pupil concerned to explain in detail the situation he or she is experiencing.

The objective is to identify the facts that can be considered harassment and to identify the perpetrators.

Establishment of protective measures

Protective measures are immediately put in place for the victim:

- Identification of an adult referent (e.g. teacher) to exchange regularly with the victim
- Increased vigilance by informing all staff of the situation
- Mobilization of comrades close to the victim.

Interview with the victim's parents

The parents of the victim pupil are informed of the situation.

The school's management communicates to them the measures that will be put in place to deal with the problem.

They are involved in dealing with the situation and are informed of their rights.

2- Implementation of the harassment procedure

The school principal and the inspector of national education put in place various measures when a case of school harassment is found. This is the **harassment procedure**.

Reporting Harassment on application Facts establishment

The school principal **reports the situation of harassment on the application *Establishment Facts***. It specifies the actions taken. This makes it possible to inform departmental and academic referents in charge of harassment.

FYI

Harassment focal points are privileged interlocutors of families. They accompany them until the resolution of the situations.

In the event of severe and persistent harassment, the school principal must **report the facts to the public prosecutor**.

Interview with perpetrators and witnesses of harassment

Witnesses, authors and their parents are received separately by the school administration. The aim is to identify precisely the problem of harassment in order to put in place appropriate measures.

It is also a matter for the school administration to make the author aware of the alleged facts and their consequences for the victim.

Follow-up of the student who is the victim of harassment

The school principal is informed daily of the victim's condition.

The Director may appeal to the health and social workers (<https://www.education.gouv.fr/les-personnels-de-sante-et-d-action-sociale-2633>) to support the student. They can also advise the family to seek outside care from their doctor or a hospital.

The school principal regularly informs the family of the evolution of the situation.

Follow-up and punishment of the perpetrator of harassment

The principal calls on the school staff to observe the attitude of the bullying student. He regularly discusses the situation with the teaching team.

If the harassment continues, the school principal can call on a departmental team to resolve the situation. National education psychologists and health personnel are involved in the process.

The **measures** the following may be taken against the perpetrator of the harassment:

- The school principal can **suspend access to school** for a maximum period of **5 days**.
- The perpetrator of the harassment may be **delisted** and **assigned to another school** without the agreement of its legal representatives being necessary. For this, his behavior must constitute a risk to the safety or health of other students.

- The director can **suspend access to school** during the duration of the **delisting**.
- After being expunged and admitted to his new school, he is subject to a **enhanced pedagogical and educational monitoring**, at least until the end of the current school year.

What preventive actions to combat school bullying? ^

A bullying prevention program was being implemented in schools, colleges and high schools. That's the program **LIGHTHOUSE**.

The prevention measures to combat school bullying

(<https://www.education.gouv.fr/non-au-harcelement/politique-de-lutte-contre-le-harcelement-l-ecole-289530>) the following are among the measures implemented:

- Information from a **self-assessment questionnaire** by pupils from CE2. The student chooses to complete the questionnaire nominatively or anonymously. The aim of the questionnaire is to assess, at least once a year, whether pupils may be victims of school harassment.
- 10 hours of apprenticeship per year from CP devoted to **prevention of harassment**
- **Training** the handling of situations of harassment by **5 personal** resources (minimum) per district of 1^{er} degree. This resource team is responsible for implementing the harassment management protocol. More generally, all school staff must be trained to combat bullying.

FYI

One national anti-harassment day (<https://www.education.gouv.fr/journee-nationale-de-lutte-contre-le-harcelement-l-ecole-941>) is organized every year.

Students and their parents are also made aware of the existence of **3018**, national number for victims of harassment.

Who shall I contact

National number for victims of harassment

To ask your questions anonymously and confidentially about school harassment.

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Can a complaint be filed against the school bully? ^

Yes, the victim, accompanied by his legal representative (parent, guardian, ad hoc administrator,...), may lodge a complaint (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1567?lang=en>) against the harasser.

The victim, through his or her legal representative, may also become a civil party.

In any case, the victim has **6 years** After the fact, to file a complaint.

The complaint can be filed in a police station or gendarmerie. It can also be filed by mail.

On site

The victim and his/her legal representative may contact a police station or gendarmerie brigade of his/her choice.

The complaint is transmitted to the public prosecutor by the police or gendarmerie.

By mail

The complaint must be filed with the public prosecutor.

The victim, accompanied by his legal representative, must send it by mail to **court of the place of the offense or of the domicile of the offender**.

Who shall I contact

Judicial Tribunal [↗ \(http://www.annuaires.justice.gouv.fr/\)](http://www.annuaires.justice.gouv.fr/)

The letter must specify the following:

- Civil status and full contact details of the victim (address and telephone number)
- Detailed account of the facts, date and place of the offense
- Name of the alleged perpetrator if the victim knows him (otherwise, the complaint will be filed against X)
- Name and address of any witnesses to the offense
- Description and provisional or definitive estimate of injury
- Evidence Documents
- Possible will of the victim to become a civil party.

The victim can use the following mail template:

File a complaint with the public prosecutor (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R11469>).

The complaint can be sent by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt, by simple letter or by followed letter.

The complaint can also be filed directly at the reception of the court.

In all cases, a receipt is given to the victim as soon as the public prosecutor's office has registered the complaint.

The presence of a lawyer is **not required** for the filing of complaints and throughout the proceedings until the trial before the criminal court.

What criminal sanctions could the perpetrator of school harassment face? ^

The penalties differ depending on whether the perpetrator of the harassment is under 13 years of age, under 13 years of age or of age:

Author under 13 years of age

Minors of **under 13** Those guilty of bullying cannot go to jail or pay a fine. They may be subject to sanctions provided for by specific devices (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1837?lang=en>) .

Minor author over 13 years

Penalties depend on the severity of the consequences of the harassment on the person concerned:

- Where school harassment has not resulted in total incapacity for work (missed school days) or has resulted in total incapacity for work of less than 8 days, it shall be punishable by **1 and a half years' imprisonment and €7,500 of fine** at most.
- Where school harassment has resulted in a total incapacity for work of more than 8 days, the penalties shall be increased to **2 and a half years and €7,500 of fine** at most.
- Where school harassment has led the person concerned to commit suicide or to attempt suicide, the penalties shall be increased to **5 years' imprisonment and €7,500 of fine** at most.

Major Author

Penalties depend on the severity of the consequences of the harassment on the person concerned:

- Where school harassment has not resulted in total incapacity for work (missed school days) or has resulted in total incapacity for work of less than 8 days, it shall be punishable by **3 years imprisonment and €45,000 of a fine**.
- Where school harassment has resulted in a total incapacity for work of more than 8 days, the penalties shall be increased to **5 years and €75,000 of a fine**.
- Where school harassment has led the person concerned to commit suicide or to attempt suicide, the penalties shall be increased to **10 years' imprisonment and €150,000 of fine**.

Who can help me?

Find who can answer your questions in your region

National number for victims of harassment

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e-enfance.org (<https://e-enfance.org/>).

School [↗ \(https://www.education.gouv.fr/annuaire\)](https://www.education.gouv.fr/annuaire).

Statute and miscellaneous references

Act No. 2022-299 of 2 March 2022 to combat school harassment

(<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000045287658?lang=en>)

Code of Criminal Procedure: article 40 (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/article_lc/LEGIARTI000006574933/?lang=en)

Obligation to report to the prosecutor

Penal Code: articles 222-33-2 to 222-33-3

(https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006070719/LEGISCTA000006165282/2022-03-09?lang=en)

Psychological harassment

Education Code: Article L111-6 (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/article_lc/LEGIARTI000045289043/2022-03-04?lang=en)

Right to education - general provisions

Civil Code: articles 1240 to 1244 (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/id/LEGISCTA000032021488/?lang=en>)

Responsibility of parents of authors

Education Code: Articles L911-1 to L911-8 (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/id/LEGISCTA000006166719/?lang=en>)

Responsibility of the State

Additional topics

Cyberbullying (Internet harassment) (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F32239?lang=en>)

Service-Public.fr

School harassment in middle and high school (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F31985?lang=en>)

Service-Public.fr

What is harassment? (<https://www.education.gouv.fr/non-au-harcelement/qu-est-ce-que-le-harcelement-325361?lang=en>)

Ministry of Education

My child is being bullied

(<https://www.education.gouv.fr/non-au-harcelement/mon-enfant-est-victime-de-harcelement-323014?lang=en>)

Ministry of Education

Measures put in place to combat bullying in schools

(<https://www.education.gouv.fr/non-au-harcelement/politique-de-lutte-contre-le-harcelement-l-ecole-289530?lang=en>)

Ministry of Education

National Day Against Bullying in Schools

(<https://www.education.gouv.fr/journee-nationale-de-lutte-contre-le-harcelement-l-ecole-941?lang=en>)

Ministry of Education

PHARE: an anti-bullying program at school

(<https://www.education.gouv.fr/non-au-harcelement/phare-un-programme-de-lutte-contre-le-harcelement-l-ecole-323435?lang=en>)

Ministry of Education