# Private schools excluded from The Diana Award anti-bullying programme after funding cuts



Private schools across the United Kingdom are expressing surprise and disappointment after receiving news that they will be barred from participating in this year's anti-bullying campaign organised by The Diana Award charity, which honours the legacy of Princess Diana. This development follows funding cuts attributed to shifting government priorities.

The Diana Award, a charity supported by Princes William and Harry, announced that it would no longer permit private schools to host or participate in its events due to "newly defined funding priorities." The charity, which has frequently collaborated with independent schools to promote anti-bullying initiatives, stated that these changes stem from a reevaluation of its funding sources after a reduction in government sponsorship of its programme.

Philip Britton, headmaster of Bolton School and chairman-elect of The Heads' Conference (HMC), described the communication from The Diana Award as "absolutely astonishing." The letter, which has been shared among various private schools, indicated that as of the upcoming 2025-2026 academic year, fee-paying institutions would not be included in the Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme.

Bolton School, established in 1516, has a history of working with The Diana Award, having hosted events that welcomed hundreds of students, including those from local state schools. Britton noted that the decision by the charity could mean that communities previously benefiting from these events would now miss out. He highlighted that bullying affects all young people, regardless of their educational backgrounds, stating, "Bullying is not about privilege."

Despite his willingness to allow the school's facilities to be used for the events free of charge—offering to bar his own pupils from attending—Britton was informed that this would not change the charity's stance. He expressed concern about the implications of this decision, attributing it to stereotypes about the nature of students at independent schools. "Independent schools should be seen as an important solution to the difficulties of education in our nation, and we are increasingly seen as the problem," he remarked.

A spokesperson for The Diana Award confirmed that the Department for Education had previously sponsored its anti-bullying programme, but funding ceased under the last government. The spokesperson clarified that it was not the case that new backers had directed the charity to exclude private schools from its initiatives. However, insiders indicated that this grant funding was cut last year during the Conservative administration and had not yet been restored under the current Labour government.

This situation has sparked discussions about the role of private schools in addressing social issues and their interactions with broader educational initiatives, especially those aimed at promoting inclusive environments for all students.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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2. <https://diana-award.org.uk/news/over-10,000-children-trained-as-anti-bullying-ambassadors-by-nationwide-building-society-and-the-diana-award> - This news release details The Diana Award's partnership with Nationwide Building Society to train over 10,000 children as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, demonstrating the charity's extensive outreach and impact.
3. <https://diana-award.org.uk/news/partners-against-bullying-the-diana-award-anti-bullying-programme-in-2023> - This article outlines The Diana Award's collaborations with various partners, including the Department for Education, to expand their anti-bullying efforts across the UK in 2023.
4. <https://diana-award.org.uk/news/schools-against-bullying-the-diana-award-anti-bullying-programme-in-2023> - This piece highlights the achievements of schools participating in The Diana Award's Anti-Bullying Programme, showcasing the charity's active role in fostering safer school environments.
5. <https://www.loxford.net/742/news/post/357/october-2023-anti-bullying-newsletter> - This newsletter from Loxford School details a workshop conducted by The Diana Award's Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, illustrating the charity's direct involvement in school-based anti-bullying initiatives.
6. <https://www.chaucer.sheffield.sch.uk/anti-bullying-ambassadors> - This page from Chaucer School describes a training session run by The Diana Award, emphasizing the charity's commitment to equipping students with skills to tackle bullying.
7. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14676119/Anger-Princess-Diana-charity-bars-fee-paying-schools-anti-bullying-drive.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data