PEER REVIEW HISTORY

BMJ Paediatrics Open publishes all reviews undertaken for accepted manuscripts. Reviewers are asked to complete a checklist review form and are provided with free text boxes to elaborate on their assessment. These free text comments are reproduced below.

ARTICLE DETAILS

TITLE (PROVISIONAL)	Bullying in children: impact on child health
AUTHORS	Armitage, Richard

VERSION 1 – REVIEW

REVIEWER	Reviewer name: Dr. Tony Waterston Institution and Country: Newcastle University, Institute of Health and Society, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Competing interests: None
REVIEW RETURNED	23-Dec-2020

GENERAL COMMENTS	The review covers effectively the severe impact of bullying on child health including adult consequences, and highlights the lack of effective referral pathways in primary care together with the poor evidence base for preventive measures. I would identify the following areas in the paper where there are omissions which I recommend need correction: 1. Table 1. Emotional bullying should be added as an additional type of bullying, including exclusion, shaming and ostracism. This also applies to cyberbullying 2. Table 2. It is worth noting that girls bullies tend to use indirect and emotional types of bullying, whereas boy bullies tend to be more physical. I would also suggest that physical and learning disability should be added as factors that increase bullying. And I wonder if educational achievement should be mentioned as a protective factor? Bullying prevention. It would be worth mentioning school based clinics which have been widely used in the USA to provide comprehensive physical and mental health support to adolescents. School nurses are described on p.18 line 50, but have been subject to severe cuts in the UK and may not be adequately trained in mental health to provide adequate support, though their potential is considerable. For primary care, there should be more emphasis on the recognition of bullying as an underlying factor in diffuse physical or emotional complaints and I would recommend that in Box 1 'presentation' be added in bullet point two and six. There are a number of typos which require correction, eg p.7 line 10 'than' for 'that'.

VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Dear Editorial Board,
Many thanks for your consideration of this article, and for the insightful peer reviewer comments which I feel are entirely justified.
Please find attached my corrected manuscript which has been updated to incorporate the reviewer's suggested improvements.
Many thanks for your time and consideration.
Best wishes,

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Rich