



**Education
Partnership
Trust**

Creating outstanding schools
which transform learning, lives
and communities

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The School takes pride in being a caring community which seeks to maximise the potential of all students regardless of gender, ability, social class, sexual orientation, age, disability, race, culture or background.
- 1.2 Bullying is an anti-social behaviour which affects everyone; it is unacceptable, and it will not be tolerated. Everyone in the school has a responsibility to report any incident of bullying that comes to their attention and these reports will always be taken seriously.
- 1.3 We believe that everyone has the right to feel welcome, secure and happy. It is only when these conditions exist that all members of the school community will be able to achieve their maximum potential. Bullying of any sort prevents this from happening and prevents equality of opportunity. It will be the responsibility of **all** at school to prevent bullying. To this end, pupils, staff and parents will be actively involved in writing and reviewing the Anti-Bullying Policy.

2.0 AIMS

- 2.1 Where bullying exists the victims must feel confidence in the systems in place and we want to create a school in which all accept that bullying in all forms is
- 2.2 This policy aims are to:
 - Raise awareness of bullying and create a culture of positive behaviour which encourages students to disclose and discuss instances of bullying behaviour. Staff will provide close supervision of students in order to minimise opportunities for bullying, particularly of vulnerable learners and in order to model positive behaviour.
 - Bring about conditions in which bullying is less likely to occur in the future by promoting equality and celebrating diversity
 - Reduce and, if possible, eradicate all incidents of bullying
 - React to bullying incidents in a reasonable, proportionate way
 - Provide support for the victim whilst also developing strategies to enable perpetrators to be accountable using Restorative Justice practices

3.0 DEFINITION OF BULLYING

- 3.1 Bullying may be defined as any wilful and hurtful behaviour, usually repeated, consistently over a period of time, designed to intentionally hurt another student or group physically or emotionally, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. Bullying is often motivated by prejudice. Bullying may follow a pattern and is directed towards a student by another student or group of students. Bullying can take many forms. It is a serious and complex matter, which can have profound consequences for children and parents. We recognise that both victims and bullies may need help to stop the behaviour recurring.
- 3.2 The seriousness of bullying cannot be emphasised enough. Bullying is among the top concerns that parents have about their children's safety and well-being at and on the way to and from school. Bullying is also a top concern of children and young people themselves. Bullying undermines a student's confidence and self-esteem; it destroys their sense of security and can be psychologically damaging. Bullying can impact on its victims' attendance and attainment at school and can have a life-long negative impact on some young people's lives.

- 3.3 It is acknowledged that bullies may have complex reasons for their behaviour and may well need help. It should also be recognised that the consequences of being allowed to 'get away with it' can be detrimental to them as well as to their victim. All students deserve the opportunity to be helped to understand what acceptable behaviour is.
- 3.4 Examples of unacceptable behaviour include but are not limited to:
- Physical (including sexual) assault.
 - Verbal abuse e.g. by name calling, teasing or making offensive remarks.
 - Indirect emotional tormenting by excluding from social groups or spreading malicious rumours.
 - Cyber-bullying, which is defined as the use of ICT by an individual or group in a way that is intended to upset others. Examples include:
 - Sexting
 - Group Messages
 - Threatening Messages
 - Name Calling
 - Using social networking websites and applications, mobile phones, text messaging, photographs, video and e-mail.
- 3.5 Bullying may involve complicity that falls short of direct participation by, for instance, manipulating a third party to tease or torment someone. It may be overt and intimidating but is often hidden and subtle. It includes actions or comments that are racist, religious or cultural, homophobic, sexist, sexual (e.g. sexting) or which focus on disabilities or other physical attributes (such as hair colour or body shape) or any reference to Special Educational Needs.
- 3.6 It is a legal obligation to report a single incident of racist, homophobic or sexual harassment bullying. Any such incident will be reported on CPOMS and then sent to the Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral) or Behaviour manager.

4.0 POSSIBLE SIGNS OF BULLYING

- 4.1 Both teachers and parents are in a position to observe changes in the behaviour of a child, which may indicate that they are being subjected to bullying.
- 4.2 The following is a list of signs to look out for;
- Damage to or losses of items of clothing, property, money or schoolwork. If this occurs frequently, then start to ask questions
 - Are there signs of physical injuries, e.g. cuts or bruises?
 - Academic achievement is perceived to have changed in a negative way
 - Playing truant or a reluctance to travel to and/or attend school
 - Being aware of children who register, but fail to go to lessons
 - An unhappy child who may not wish to go out at breaks or lunchtimes
 - A child who threatens to self-harm
- 4.3 Other behaviour patterns demonstrated by the victim, e.g. is the student conspicuously loud or quiet; is their behaviour appropriate when engaged in normal classroom interaction; is there unexplained behaviour changes e.g. moody, tearful, temper, frightened, reluctant to talk to or sit with friends?

5.0 APPROACH TO COMBAT BULLYING

Why we should be concerned

5.1 There are a number of very important reasons for challenging bullying behaviour:

5.2 The safety and happiness of students: When students are bullied:

- Their lives are made miserable
- They may suffer injury
- They may be unhappy about coming to school
- They are likely to lose self-confidence and self-esteem over time
- Some may even blame themselves for inviting the bullying behaviour

Our approach and staff responsibilities

5.3 It is important that students are aware that the school will deal swiftly with any instances of bullying. They, therefore, need to know what types of behaviour constitutes bullying.

5.4 The School will talk openly about bullying and will raise awareness through assertiveness and self-esteem work in PSHCE and by cross curricular work around diversity.

5.5 If a bullying incident does occur it will be dealt with immediately by a member of SLT discussing the incident confidentially with the student concerned, discussion with parents, deciding on a course of action and filling in the appropriate record keeping which will be sent to the Governors to ensure transparency. Action will be:

- Staff within the school to discuss issue with student Incident recorded
- Staff will record all incidents on CPOMS

5.6 By role modelling appropriate behaviour, we would hope to diminish the occurrence of bullying in the school. The school staff also raise awareness of and tackle bullying through:

- SEAL
- Creative learning
- Multi-agency working
- Pupil consultation on bullying policy

Scope of policy outside of school

5.7 The school endeavours to have open and supportive communication with parents in relation to all bullying incidents. Parents, who are concerned that their child may be being bullied, or who may suspect that their child may be the perpetrator of bullying, should contact the school immediately. Parents have a responsibility to support the school's anti bullying policy and to actively encourage their child to be a positive member of the school. For incidents outside of the school;

- Normal procedures will be followed for on and off school site bullying
- Parental support will be sought involving all pupils involved in bullying incidents

Students

5.8 Students *who have been bullied* will be supported by members of staff in the following ways:

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with a member of staff of their choice
- Reassuring the student
- Offering continuous support
- Taking measures to restore self-esteem and confidence
- informing parents or guardians (with permission of student)

5.9 Students *who have bullied* will be helped by members of staff in the following ways:

- Discussing what happened
- Discovering why the student became involved
- Establishing the wrongdoing and need to change
- Informing parents or guardians to help change the attitude of the student

5.10 The following disciplinary steps may/can be taken:

- Official warnings to cease offending
- Exclusion from certain areas of school premises
- fixed-term exclusion
- Permanent exclusion

6.0 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

6.1 Incidents of bullying will be recorded, monitored and addressed on a day-to-day basis, through staff supervision, team meetings, and general care practice. In summary;

- All incidents will be reported to the Head of School or Pastoral Team
- Incidents will be recorded both for individuals and also for the school as a whole. This will be done via CPOMS
- Monitoring of Incidents will address ways to ensure safety for the young person and to also identify any trends which may need addressing in partnership with other professionals. In order to track and enable further analysis of this data we will record details including gender, ethnicity, SEN and type of bullying.
- The school will maintain records of all incidents of bullying and include details in the Annual Report to The Governors. The Head of School will ensure that these records are available for inspection by OFSTED
- The Governing Body will determine how often this policy will be reviewed and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school

Appendix 1 – DfE Advice and Guidance

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION ADVICE: PREVENTING AND TACKLING BULLYING ADVICE FOR SCHOOL LEADERS, STAFF AND GOVERNING BODIES

About this advice

This document has been produced to help schools prevent and respond to bullying as part of their overall behaviour policy, to understand their legal responsibilities in this area and to understand the Department's approach.

Who is this advice for?

This advice is primarily aimed at school staff, school leaders and governors in schools, 6th forms and colleges including Academies, Free schools, Pupil Referral Units and alternative providers.

It may also be useful for FE and community settings.

What has changed?

This document replaces previous advice to schools. It outlines, in one place, the government's approach to bullying, legal obligations and the powers schools have to tackle bullying, and the principles that underpin the most effective anti bullying strategies in schools. It also lists further resources through which school staff can access specialist information on the specific issues that they face.

What does the law say and what do I have to do?

The Education and Inspections Act 2006

There are a number of statutory obligations on schools with regard to behaviour, which establish clear responsibilities to respond to bullying. In particular, Section 89 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 does the following:

- provides that every school must have measures to encourage good behaviour and prevent all forms of bullying among pupils. These measures should be part of the school's behaviour policy, which must be communicated to all pupils, school staff and parents
- gives Head Teacher and teachers the ability to ensure that pupils behave when they are not on school premises or under the lawful control of school staff

The Equality Act 2010

Under the Equality Act 2010, new duties on schools and other public bodies will come into force in April 2011. The Act strengthens and simplifies existing equality legislation. The Act brings together existing duties not to discriminate on grounds of race, disability and gender, with which schools are already bound to comply, and it extends these to include duties not to discriminate on the grounds of age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

It places a requirement on governing bodies and proprietors of schools to eliminate discrimination and promote equal opportunities, some of which they will already be doing. It will apply to school policies for tackling prejudice-based bullying.

Safeguarding children and young people

Under the Children Act 1989, a bullying incident should be addressed as a child protection concern when there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm'. Where this is the case, the school staff members should report their concerns to their local authority children's social care. Even where safeguarding is not considered to be an issue, schools may need to draw on a range of external services to support the pupil who is experiencing bullying, or to tackle any underlying issue that has contributed to a child doing the bullying.

Criminal law

Although bullying in itself is not a specific criminal offence in the UK, it is important to bear in mind that some types of harassing or threatening behaviour –

or communications – could be a criminal offence, for example under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, the Malicious Communications Act 1988, the Communications Act 2003, and the Public Order Act 1986. If school staff feel that an offence may have been committed they should seek assistance from the police. For example, under the Malicious Communication Act 1988, it is an offence for a person to send an electronic communication to another person with the intent to cause distress or anxiety or to send an electronic communication which conveys a message which is indecent or grossly offensive, a threat, or information which is false and known or believed to be false by the sender.

Bullying outside school premises

Head Teacher and teachers have a specific statutory power to discipline pupils for poor behaviour outside of the school premises. Section 89(5) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 gives Head Teacher teachers the power to regulate pupils' conduct when they are not on school premises and are not under the lawful control or charge of a member of school staff. This can relate to any bullying incidents occurring anywhere off the school premises, such as on school or public transport, outside the local shops, or in a town or village centre.

Where bullying outside school is reported to school staff, it should be investigated and acted on. The Head Teacher should also consider whether it is appropriate to notify the police or antisocial behaviour coordinator in their local authority of the actions taken against a pupil. If the misbehaviour could be criminal or poses a serious threat to a member of the public, the police should always be informed.

Dealing with bullying

Bullying can be physical or emotional and it can take many forms (e.g. cyberbullying). Immediate physical safety and stopping violence come first, but bullying can also be because of prejudice against particular groups (e.g. because of special educational needs, on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or transgender status, or because of caring duties).

School staff, leaders and governors are best placed to decide how best to respond to the particular issues that affect their pupils. There is no single solution to bullying which will suit all schools.

Successful schools have clear policies in place to deal with bullying and poor behaviour, which are clear to parents, pupils and staff so that, when incidents do occur, they are dealt with quickly.

Schools should apply disciplinary measures to pupils who bully in order to show clearly that their behaviour is wrong. Disciplinary measures must be applied fairly, consistently and reasonably, taking account of any

special educational needs or disabilities that the pupils may have and taking into account the needs of vulnerable pupils. It is also important to consider the motivations behind bullying behaviour and whether it reveals any concerns for the safety of the perpetrator. Where this is the case, the child engaging in bullying behaviour may need support themselves.

Schools that excel at tackling bullying have created an ethos of good behaviour where pupils treat one another and the school staff with respect because they know that this is the right way to behave. Values of respect for staff and other pupils, an understanding of the value of education and a clear understanding of how our actions affect others permeate the whole school environment – in the playground, corridors, classrooms and beyond the school gates.

Staff and older pupils setting an excellent example to others reinforce the knowledge and values that children are taught in lessons. Schools that achieve this are successful in preventing bullying from arising in the first place.

Successful schools also do the following:

- Involve parents to ensure that they are clear that the school does not tolerate bullying and are aware of the procedures to follow if they believe that their child is being bullied. Parents feel confident that the school will take any complaint about bullying seriously and resolve the issue in a way that protects the child, and they reinforce the value of good behaviour at home
- Involve pupils. All pupils understand the school's approach and are clear about the part they can play to prevent bullying, including when they find themselves as bystanders
- Regularly evaluate and update their approach to take account of developments in technology; for instance, by updating acceptable use policies for computers
- Implement disciplinary sanctions. The consequences of bullying reflect the seriousness of the incident so that others see that bullying is unacceptable
- Openly discuss differences between people that could motivate bullying, such as religion, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality. Schools can also teach children that using any prejudice based language is unacceptable
- Use specific organisations or resources for help with particular problems. Schools can draw on the experience and expertise of anti bullying organisations with a proven track record and/or specialised expertise in dealing with certain forms of bullying
- Provide effective staff training. Anti bullying policies are most effective when all members of school staff understand the principles and purpose of the school's policy, its legal responsibilities regarding bullying, how to resolve problems and where to seek support. Schools can invest in specialised skills to help their staff understand the needs of their pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disability (SEND) and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGB&T) pupils
- Work with the wider community, such as the police and children's services, where bullying is particularly serious or persistent and where a criminal offence may have been committed. Successful schools also work with other agencies and the wider community to tackle bullying that is happening outside school
- Make it easy for pupils to report bullying so that they are assured that they will be listened to and incidents acted on. Pupils should feel that they can report bullying which may have occurred outside school, including cyberbullying
- Create an inclusive environment. Schools should create a safe environment where pupils can openly discuss the cause of their bullying, without fear of further bullying or discrimination
- Celebrate success. Celebrating success is an important way of creating a positive school ethos around the issue

School's accountability

Pupils will learn best in a safe and calm environment that is free from disruption and in which education is the primary focus.

The School rejects bullying in all its forms. The school respects and supports every individual. It is the responsibility of every member of the school to prevent bullying. Unkind behaviour is not tolerated, but on occasions, is inevitable and will be dealt with in a constructive way so that children can learn from their mistakes.

Bullying of all forms, on the grounds of:

- Race including Colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin
- Age
- Being or Becoming a transsexual
- Marriage or civil partnership
- Pregnancy or Maternity Leave
- Disability
- Religion or Belief, or lack of
- Sex and sexual Orientation

They will be treated as a serious incident and reports of such incidents will be acted upon, recorded and reported to the appropriate members of staff. All staff will be alerted to the various types of bullying and the appropriate strategies to use when incidents occur.

The School will work with a range of agencies to promote positive relationships, harmony and mutual respect throughout the school.

- GIDS (Gender Identity Development Service)
- Brook
- CANW (Child Action North West)
- Stonewall

APPENDIX 2 – REPORTING AND MONITORING

Students

If you are being bullied tell a member of staff or an adult that you trust. You can tell any member of staff in school, but these members of staff should be top of your list.

- Pastoral Manager; INSERT
- DSL: INSERT
- Head Teacher: INSERT

If you feel embarrassed or uncomfortable talking to a member of staff, you can email the anti-bullying email address or speak to your parents and they can contact staff in school

Parents

Parents should report ALL incidents of bullying to the Pastoral Manager or to the relevant staff. All Staff can be contacted on [insert] and asked for in person or you can email key staff at the addresses below

INSERT

All reported accounts of bullying are investigated by the Pastoral Manager and subsequent findings are shared with other relevant pastoral staff.

Other agencies and advice regarding online/cyber/sexting are available through the anti-bullying page on the school website.

How We Record Incidents of Bullying

A record of all reports is kept on SIMS as a behaviour incident.

Staff must ensure that all incidents are recorded promptly.

Parents will be involved at the discretion of the Behaviour Support Manager and Senior Leadership Team. All well founded concerns will be shared with parents.

What we will do

Parents of both the perpetrator and victim will be informed of incidents of bullying and their full cooperation expected. Outside agencies may be called upon for support. In cases where a Looked After Child is involved in an incident of bullying, we will inform the care home

If a child is being bullied, action must be taken. The bully will be made aware of the unacceptable behaviour and the consequences of any repetition. Support will be offered to the victim and both the victim and the bully will receive appropriate coaching/restorative action.

Sanctions previously outlined in the behaviour policy will be employed, at the discretion of staff.

Letters will be sent out to parents of alleged perpetrators of bullying and victims by Heads of Year or Pastoral support team if deemed appropriate.

Governors will be informed of the number of bullying incidents at Governors meetings on a termly basis. Examples of measures taken will also be provided.