



Collaboration of East Harptree and Ubley Church of England Primary Schools

Anti-bullying Policy

Aim

We are committed to working with children, staff, governors and parents/carers to create a robust anti-bullying culture within our schools.

Our schools are a place where everyone has the right to be themselves, to be included and to learn in a safe and happy environment. Everyone at school is equal and is expected to treat each other with respect and kindness. We aim to create an environment where pupils can grow and flourish without fear. All pupils have the right to be safe in and out of school and to be protected when they are feeling vulnerable.

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in our schools. The safety, welfare and well-being of all pupils and staff is a key priority. We take all incidences of bullying seriously and it is our duty as a school community to do all that we can to prevent and tackle bullying, harassment and discrimination. We want to ensure that children and adults learn and work in a supportive, caring and safe environment, without fear of being bullied.

We actively promote the value of respect and work to ensure that difference and diversity is celebrated across the whole school community. We want to enable our pupils to become responsible citizens and prepare them for life in the modern world.

We define bullying as:

Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It can happen face to face or online (Anti-bullying Alliance, 2021)

We believe that:

- All bullying is unacceptable, irrespective of how it happens and/ or what justification is given
- All incidents of bullying will be investigated at the school will take actions where necessary, supporting both the victim and the bully at all times
- All incidents of bullying must be taken seriously and the school will consider the needs of all of those affected by bullying
- Children and adults who bully must be held to account for their wrongdoing, but will need support to change their attitudes and behaviour
- Accountability will be sought in all incidents of bullying, seeking identification of wrongdoing and supporting the repairing of harm done through a solution-based approach
- All inappropriate language that perpetuates attitudes underpinning bullying behaviour must be challenged at all times
- Everyone in our school has a responsibility to respond promptly and efficiently to all instances of bullying
- We must communicate with parents/ carers regarding any concerns about bullying and deal promptly with concerns/ complaints

- All of our children must feel safe and confident that any reported incidents will be dealt with effectively by all responsible adults
- It is important to focus on preventing bullying behaviour within the school community

Who is bullied?

Anybody can be subject to bullying at any time in their life. It is not only something that affects children and young people. A person who has been bullied may commonly find it difficult to combat victim behaviour or report their experiences to those who may be able to help.

Children who are most at risk of being the victims or perpetrators of bullying may be those who:

- Are in foster care or residential homes
- Have specific special educational needs (especially on the autistic spectrum)
- Have a disability or impairment
- Are from minority ethnic backgrounds refugees
- Are refugees or asylum seekers
- Start a school or activity group mid term
- Are, or are perceived to be, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning their gender or sexuality
- Speaks a first language other than English
- Are young carers
- Have suffered bereavement
- Have suffered domestic violence
- Have experiences physical or emotional trauma
- Have social/emotional issues
- Have a parent that was the victim of bullying
- Are 'low prior attainer' or 'high prior attainer'/talented

Method of bullying

Physical aggression: hitting, kicking, tripping, spitting, taking or damaging property, use of threat or force in any way, intimidation or demands for money or goods

Verbal: name calling, insulting, mocking, taunting, gossiping, secrets and threats. References to upsetting events such as bereavement, divorce, being in care

Non-verbal: staring body language, gestures

Indirect: excluding, ostracising, spreading rumours, story-telling, emails, chat rooms, messaging on mobile devices, inappropriate gestures

Cyber: (a type of indirect bullying): text messaging, the inappropriate use of social media and apps, the misuse of photos or videos, emails

The Collaboration recognises that some acts of bullying may constitute criminal offences and in these cases other organisations will be contacted (e.g. the Police, Facebook, Social Care)

Types of bullying (can include):

Racist and faith based – name calling, derogatory assumptions or generalisations about race, culture, religious faiths or beliefs

Sexual orientation – homophobic, transphobic or biphobic – based on actual or perceived sexual orientation, and can include name calling, exclusions, graffiti etc

Appearances – based on weight, size, hair colour, unusual or distinct physical characteristics

Sexual – touching, exhibitionism, voyeurism, sexual propositioning, verbal personal comment or communication of sexual desires

Disability – name calling, exclusion, mimicking, physical overpowering

Health – based on physical or mental conditions

Income based – of living on a low or high income

Transgender – based on perception of gender identity

Caring responsibilities – name calling, negative assumptions about a young carer

Related to home or personal circumstances

Roles within Bullying

Different roles within bullying have been identified:

- Those relying on social power, dominating others, often with group support (**ring leader**)
- Others joining in and therefore afraid of ring leader (**associates**)
- The awareness of a silent majority that bullying is taking place, but feeling unable to do anything about it (**bystanders**)
- Those who try to stop bullying (**defenders**)

Derogatory language

Derogatory or offensive language is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. This type of language can take any of the forms of bullying listed in our definitions of bullying. It will be challenged by all staff and recorded and monitored using the CPOMS system. Where appropriate, follow up actions and sanctions will be taken. Staff are expected to challenge and record the casual use of derogatory language

Possible Indicators of Bullying:

- disturbed sleep
- bed wetting
- head and stomach aches
- problems with concentration
- changes in behaviour or attitude
- truanting
- bullying other children
- damaged or missing clothing/money/property
- asking for more money than usual or stealing money
- withdrawn or changes in their usual behaviour patterns or attitude
- distressed or emotional and finds it difficult to articulate their feelings
- changes in eating patterns
- changes in online activity
- shows evidence of self-harming
- is unusually tired without reasonable explanation
- has unexplained bruises or marks on their body
- repeatedly comes to school without a packed lunch
- is frightened of walking to or from school
- seems afraid to be alone or does not want to go outside at play times or lunch times
- requires more adult interaction than usual

All staff should be aware of these indicators and report promptly any suspicions of bullying to the appropriate person (usually the class teacher in the first instance); in some cases the matter will be referred the leadership team.

To prevent bullying in our school

We will develop a wider curriculum to ensure:

- All members of the school community feel listened to and valued through the integration of restorative approaches into all areas of school life
- All children and young people are clear about the roles they can play in preventing bullying, including the role of bystanders and upstanders
- Recruit and train anti-bullying ambassadors from Year 2 to Year 6 and have named staff and governor anti-bullying ambassadors
- A climate exists where bullying is not tolerated
- Develop peer support systems to prevent and respond to bullying
- Promote safe play/social areas
- Audit our site regularly to establish that children feel safe, especially in known vulnerable areas
- Ensure staff model positive relationships at all times
- Train all staff to identify and address bullying
- Hold an annual anti-bullying week and anti-bullying initiatives through the school year
- Have a worry box that is checked daily
- We regularly explicitly teach the children about values, friendships, relationships, wellbeing in dedicated curriculum time
- Bullying is on the agenda of every school council meeting
- Anti-bullying ambassadors meet termly

If a child feels they are being bullied

We will regularly remind children that it is important to share their concerns if they feel that they are being bullied. There are several procedures that children are encouraged to follow (not hierarchical):

- Tell a trusted adult/member of staff,
- Write your concern down and pass to the class teacher
- Tell a parent or adult at home
- Discuss it as part of your PSHE/Jigsaw time

Dealing with an Incident

When bullying has been reported the following action will be taken:

- Staff will investigate and record bullying on our record system called CPOMS (bullying concern and actions taken)
- SLT will monitor, analyse and evaluate incidents of bullying.
- The safeguarding team will review bullying with the safeguarding governor and produce a termly report to the local governing body.
- Staff will offer support to the victim and inform the child's class teacher. Individual meetings will be held to devise a plan of action that ensures that they are made to feel safe and reassured that the bullying is not their fault. This may involve a restorative meeting. Action plans will make use of school initiatives such as anti-bullying ambassadors and will include monitoring.

- Staff will proactively respond to the perpetrator who will also require support. They will discuss targets with the child's class teacher and devise an action plan.
- Staff will inform parents and where necessary, involve them in any plans of action.
- Staff will assess whether any other agencies need to be informed e.g. Social Care, particularly where actions have taken place outside of school.

Bullying Outside of School

Bullying is unacceptable and will not be tolerated, whether in school or outside. Bullying can take place on the way to and from school, before or after school hours, at weekends, during the holidays, at clubs and other organisations or in the wider community. The nature of cyber-bullying in particular means that it can happen anywhere at any time. Staff, parents, carers and children must be vigilant at all times and report bullying to school staff so that it can be dealt with promptly and efficiently as outlined in this policy.

Establishing and recording what happened by listening to the targeted child

After listening to the views and feelings of the targeted child and their account of what has happened to them, the school will record the incident appropriately including:

- Date and time incident reported
- Member of staff to whom the incident was reported
- Date, time, location of alleged incident
- Nature of the alleged incident from the perspective of the person being bullied
- Date and time when parents/carers were informed

It is likely that discussion other parties will need to take place and records made.

Deciding upon a response

After listening to the account of the targeted child, the member of staff will discuss an appropriate course of action with them and make sure that the HT or Deputy HT is kept informed. All incidents of bullying will be responded to seriously and the behaviour of those who have been bullying will be challenged. When an incident of bullying is reported the school will make every endeavour to make a written record of this incident on the day of the incident being reported. Written records are factual and where opinions are offered these will be based on factual evidence. Recording incidents helps to build a picture of behaviour patterns in school e.g. who, when, how, what action taken.

Supporting pupils

Bullied Pupils: Staff who deal with pupils who have been bullied must always offer reassurance. Pupils who have been bullied will be given support.

Bullies: It is recognised that support must also be given to the perpetrator. Changing the attitude and behaviour of bullies will be part of the responsibility of the positive procedures used by the school.

As well as supporting pupils through preventative and restorative conversations, staff will respond to incidents of bullying as outlined in the school's behaviour policy. Additional

actions/consequences are determined by the nature of the bullying on a case to case basis. They may include one or more of:

- Additional time out/reflection time
- A sincere apology to the victim verbally or in writing
- Completing special community tasks
- Adapting/loss of school privileges, playtimes, lunchtimes, other activities/clubs
- Parents requested to discuss the matter at school with a member of the SLT
- Internal exclusions, fixed term exclusions, permanent exclusion

Consulting with parents/Carers

Parents will be kept informed by the relevant member of staff. He/she should contact the parents of the targeted child as well as the parents of the perpetrator(s). Parents, as well as all staff and pupils, should know that the school will not tolerate bullying, and takes a positive, active approach to educating pupils to combat it. Parents will be informed of the policy and procedures. Parents of pupils who are being bullied and parents of the bullies will be involved in the solution to the problem as appropriate.

The role of staff (responses)

In any incident of bullying, staff are aware of the following principles:

- It is important that children who experience bullying can be heard
- It is important to note that people react differently to bullying and it is often very difficult to tell if someone is upset or hurt
- If children feel upset, they are encouraged to speak to their teacher or a responsible adult at an appropriate time or put a note in a confidential worry box in each school.
- It must be emphasised to the children that they should never take the law into their own hands and should remember that physical aggression is not acceptable
- They should be reassured that the adult will try to sort out the problem as calmly as possible
- The most serious incidents are referred to the Head. Parents would be requested to come and discuss matters
- The incident would be recorded on the school CPOMS system
- Pupils will be told to always report incidents of bullying

Bullying outside of school

Bullying is unacceptable and will not be tolerated, whether in school or outside. Bullying can take place on the way to and from schools, before or after school hours, at clubs and other organisations or in the wider community. The nature of cyber bullying in particular means that it can happen anywhere at any time. Staff, parents, carers and children must be vigilant at all times and report bullying to the school staff so that it can be dealt with promptly and efficiently as outlined in this policy.

Advice to Parents

If you suspect that your child is being bullied at school it is vital that you inform the school so that we can investigate and take appropriate action. We cannot act on what we do not know about. Parents who are concerned that their child is involved in incidents of bullying can approach any member of staff to report their concerns – the preference would be to contact the child's class teacher in the first instant. Parents

can be assured that all such reports will be taken seriously and investigated fully. Teachers will keep parents fully informed of their findings and any actions taken.

What happens next?

- The incidents will be recorded by the staff and a Senior Leader notified
- Investigations will take place on the day that we are notified (where possible) and any evidence gathered
- In cases where it is clear that bullying has taken place, the parents of the perpetrator will be informed and asked to meet to discuss the problem. The parents of the victim will also be contacted and kept up to date
- If necessary and appropriate, other agencies will be consulted (e.g. Police, South West Grid for Learning, Social Care)
- Where it is clear that bullying has taken place, work will be undertaken to help the perpetrator to change his/her behaviour

Monitoring the effectiveness of our approach

The Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team will consider the reports of bullying to determine what can be learned from the incidents and how they were handled, with a view to refining and improving the school's strategies. These reports will also enable patterns to be identified. The Headteacher will report to the governing body (via the Safeguarding Governor) as well as through the regular written reports to LGB.

Support agencies and source of support

www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk

www.kidscape.org.uk 02077303300

KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4) 0845 1205 204

Childline – Advice and stories from children who have survived bullying 08000 1111

www.bullying.co.uk Bullying on line

www.parentlineplus.org.uk advice and links for parents 0808 800 2222
Parents Against Bullying 01928 576152

Bullying Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) 020 7354 8321

Children's Legal Centre 0845 345 4345

www.cyberbullying.org Advice on preventing and taking action against cyber bullying

<http://www.chatdanger.com> Information about the potential dangers online (including bullying), and advice on how to stay safe while chatting

www.thinkuknow.co.uk The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP). Resources around internet safety for secondary schools Safe to Learn, Cyber-bullying, Homophobic bullying, Bullying involving Children with Special Educational Needs DCSF 2007

www.mencap.org A learning disability charity that provides information and support to children and adults as well as their families and carers

www.beatbullying.org.uk A leading bullying prevention charity in the UK providing anti-bullying resources (with information, advice and support for children, parents and professionals)

See also the Positive Behaviour Policy (Review date September 2024)