



**Old Buckenham Primary School & Nursery**

**'Inspiring Learning for Life'**

**Anti-Bullying Policy**

Author/Edited by	Helen Mitchell
Date	September 2021
Executive summary	This policy has been reviewed by staff
Review body	Teaching Staff
Endorsed by	Governing body
Review frequency & next review date	Annually September 2022
Comments	<p>This policy is available on our school website and is available on request from the school office.</p> <p>This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body on an annual basis. Staff were consulted during INSET. Governors were consulted at the LGB meeting. Pupils are consulted through School Council. Parents are consulted via School Newsletter. The policy was then reviewed and adapted in response to these inputs</p>

### **Our Aims**

At OBPSN we take all forms of conflict, friendship problems, and bullying behaviour seriously.

Our aims are:

- To provide a safe and secure environment for all children in our care.
- To create a happy atmosphere in which both parents and staff work together for the welfare of the students.
- Everyone is mutually valued and respected regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, beliefs and ability.
- To encourage children to adopt agreed standards of behaviour and values in order to develop a sense of self-discipline and to take responsibility for their own actions.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Headteacher – Has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation and liaising with the governing body, parents/carers, LA and outside agencies.

The Anti –bullying Coordinator in our school is: Tom Grass. The anti-bullying coordinator will have general responsibility for handling the implementation of this policy.

Their responsibilities are:

- Policy development and review involving pupils, staff, governors, parents/carers and relevant local agencies
- Implementing the policy and monitoring and assessing its effectiveness in practice
- Ensuring evaluation takes place and that this informs policy review
- Managing bullying incidents
- Managing the reporting and recording of bullying incidents
- Assessing and coordinating training and support for staff and parents/carers where appropriate
- Coordinating strategies for preventing bullying behaviour

### **Definition of Bullying Behaviour**

We acknowledge that both friendship problems and bullying behaviour can be upsetting and unpleasant but it is important to distinguish between the two, as the responses to friendship problems will be different to the strategies used to address bullying behaviour.

Friendship problems may be an occasional incident where both children disagree and find it difficult to resolve the disagreement without adult help. It is unlikely to be repeated behaviour and may even be accidental, where both children make an effort to resolve the problem. However, we recognise that repeated friendship problems can sometimes lead to bullying behaviour.

Bullying behaviour is defined as - **“The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can happen face to face or through cyber space”** (Anti-bullying Alliance 2014).

Occasionally an incident may be deemed to be bullying even if the behaviour has not been repeated or persistent – if it fulfils all other descriptions of bullying. This possibility should be considered, particularly in cases of sexual, sexist, racist or homophobic bullying and when children with disabilities are involved. If the victim might be in danger then intervention is urgently required.

Bullying can take many forms:

- **Physical** bullying (hitting, punching, finger jabbing, any inappropriate touching, pinching, jostling, .breaking or taking property)
- **Verbal** bullying (name calling, put downs, threats, teasing, ridiculing, belittling, name calling, excessive criticism or sarcasm.)
- **Indirect** bullying (rumours or stories, exclusion from a group, shunning, invading privacy, graffiti designed to embarrass, withholding friendship or affection.)
- **Cyber** bullying sending nasty phone calls, text messages or e-mails/chat rooms. Linked to schools Acceptable Use Policy (ICT)

Some bullying is done because a child is deemed to belong to a certain group. This has been labelled ‘prejudice based bullying’, and includes homophobic bullying, racist bullying, sexual or gender bullying, and bullying of students with learning or other disabilities. (Linked to Equalities Policy).

### **Who is bullied?**

Anybody could be subject to bullying at any time in their life. It is not only something that affects children.

A person is bullied when, either as an individual or part of a group, she or he suffers in any way from the direct result of intentional and persistent harassment and/or victimisation by another individual or group.

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 them.

Children and young people who are at most increased risk of being the victims or perpetrators of bullying are those who:

- are in foster care or residential homes (looked after children)
- have an Education , health and care plan
- have specific special educational needs
- have a disability or impairment
- are from minority ethnic backgrounds
- 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 of their sexuality or gender
- speak a first language other than English
- are young carers

- have suffered bereavement
- have suffered domestic violence
- have experienced physical or emotional trauma
- have a parent that was a victim of bullying.

### **Signs and Symptoms**

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- Is frightened of walking to or from school
- Begs to be driven to school
- Changes their usual routine
- Is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- Becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- Starts stammering
- Attempts or threatens self-harm
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares/bedwetting
- Regularly feels ill in the morning
- Begins to do poorly in school work
- Comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- Has possessions go “missing”
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises
- Becomes unreasonable when dealing with school issues
- Stops eating
- Is frightened to say what’s wrong
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above

### **Strategies for preventing bullying behaviour**

#### **Whole school approach**

- Issues surrounding friendships and bullying behaviour are taught through the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education Curriculum and class time, including circle times where appropriate. Children are taught to explore some of the ups and downs of relationships, including the positive aspects and benefits of friendships and the negative aspects of relational conflict.
- Whole School Assemblies are also used to discuss bullying and raise children’s awareness of what bullying looks like, and how they can respond.
- Class Time/Circle Time provide opportunities for more detailed discussions and role play activities to explore the nature of bullying.
- Class and School Councils will provide a forum for discussing any bullying issues and for the children to decide ways of preventing it and supporting those who are bullied.
- Peer Supporter aim to enable students to resolve friendship problems and low- level bullying behaviour without adult intervention
- Positive play leaders to reduce potential conflict during breaktime and lunchtime

- The Behaviour Windmill will be upheld at all times. All staff will monitor behaviour and intervene when it becomes inappropriate in order to prevent bullying to develop. Staff on playground duty will inform class teachers of any incidents.
- Participation in Anti Bullying Week each year
- Workshops with parents based on anti-bullying strategies and policies
- Regular staff inset session on anti-bullying strategies and safeguarding procedures

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development**

Pupil's SMSC development will be developed when learning about bullying by ensuring pupils:

- Respect each other including people from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds
- Recognise the difference between right and wrong
- Understand the consequences of their actions
- Understand the effects of their behaviour on others

### **Strategies for responding to bullying behaviour**

Where bullying does occur this will be followed, by an immediate and appropriate response, including the use of disciplinary sanctions where necessary.

Early identification is the most effective way in minimising bullying behaviour and the effects on the person being bullied. We also acknowledge that the person doing the bullying needs to understand that their behaviour is unacceptable and must stop. They may also need support to change their behaviour and explore the underlying reasons for bullying.

Children are encouraged to report any negative behaviour, even if they are not sure whether it is bullying. They can do this through:

- Speaking to their teacher/TA or any member of support staff
- Speaking to a parent/other adult who then may contact the school in any of the ways listed.
- Speaking to their School Council rep or a playground buddy

### **When bullying is known to have happened or be ongoing**

The class teacher will discuss the incident(s) with the child being bullied. It is important that they are listened to and believed.

The incident will then be discussed with the child engaging in bullying. Information will be gathered from witnesses to explain what they saw. The class teacher/Senior Teacher/Headteacher will be informed.

Sanctions in line with the school's Behaviour Policy will be used where appropriate. These might include:

- Official warnings to cease offending or withdrawal of certain school privileges
- Detention
- Exclusion from certain areas of school premises
- Minor fixed-term exclusion
- Major fixed-term exclusion
- Permanent exclusion
- Parents of those involved will be informed of any action taken.
- Records will be kept on students' files.

Where a child or group of children deny involvement in bullying behaviour the children concerned will be observed and monitored. The child being bullied may be asked to record and report any incidents which cause them concern.

This policy will refer to 'the person bullying' and 'the person being bullied' rather than 'bully' and 'victim', both of which can be defined as negative labelling.

### **Support**

#### *Victim*

Support for the victim is essential both immediately following the incident and during an agreed period of review. Peer support, staff support, parental support and outside agency support may all be essential to ensure that the victim does not suffer any long term effects. After a period of time staff will meet with the victim to reassess the situation and the relationship between those involved.

*Children who have been bullied will be supported by:*

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with a member of staff of their choice
  - Reassuring the pupil
  - Offering continuous support
  - Restoring self-esteem and confidence

#### *Perpetrator(s)*

It is recognised that support must be given to the perpetrator. Disciplinary procedures against the perpetrator(s) are intended to change or modify behaviour rather than label anyone as a bully. Such procedures may include:

- Positive behaviour strategies
- Withdrawal of activities
- The establishment of mentoring or a buddy system
- Discussion about the effects of bullying
- Involvement of other agencies and services such as an Educational Psychologist and the Behaviour Support Team

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Data will be collected (Health Related Behaviour Survey, Anti-Bullying Questionnaires by pupils and parents, number of lunchtime incidents) and analysed to identify achievements, areas for development and

school needs. This will inform planning and staff are regularly updated through INSETs and staff meetings.

- Work samples (photos, lesson evaluations, pupil's self assessments, photos of displays, pupil's work) will be collected during Anti-Bullying Week by the PSHE subject leader.
- This document will be monitored and evaluated regularly and updated to take account of new Government and local guidance, and the views of the whole school community.

## **Health & Safety & Safeguarding**

### *Confidentiality*

Pupils will be made aware that some information cannot be held confidential and that their best interests will be maintained.

### *Disclosure or suspicion of possible abuse*

See *School* policy for the procedures for dealing with child sexual abuse based on the LEA guidelines and recommendations. This policy is available on request.

### *Dissemination Of The Policy*

All staff members and governors will receive a copy of this policy. Copies are available from the office on request.

### *Awareness Creation*

In addition to promoting anti – bullying policies during anti – bullying week it is important to find as many other outlets as possible for promoting anti – bullying policies.

## **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 5 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 Communications Act 1988, any person who sends 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, is guilty of an offence if their purpose in sending it was to cause distress or anxiety to the recipient.

## **Bullying which occurs outside school premises**

School staff members have the power to discipline pupils for misbehaving outside the school premises. Sections 90 and 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 say that a school's disciplinary powers can be used to address pupils' conduct when they are not on school premises and are not under the lawful control or charge of a member of school staff, but only if it would be reasonable for the school to regulate pupils' behaviour in those circumstances.

This may include 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 headteacher should also consider whether it is appropriate to notify the police or anti social behaviour coordinator in their local authority of the action 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.

While school staff members have the power to discipline pupils for bullying that occurs outside school, they can only impose the disciplinary sanction and implement that sanction on the school premises or when the pupil is under the lawful control of school staff, for instance on a school trip.

#### **Links with other policies**

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Equality Policy
- PSHE Policy

#### **Complaints**

The Governing Body has established a formal complaints procedure and this may be used by a parent/carers if necessary.



Appendix 1

Flowchart for Anti-Bullying Procedures

