



Woolden Hill Primary School

Achieving Success, Creating Futures Together

Anti-bullying policy

Approved by: Candi Noman **Date:** 12.11.2024

Last reviewed on: 21.01.2023

Next review due by: November 2026

Rationale

At Woolden Hill Primary School we aim to produce an inclusive environment for all pupils which openly discuss differences between people and celebrate diversity. As a consequence, we aim to provide a safe, caring and friendly environment for learning for all our pupils to allow them to improve their life chances and help them maximise their potential. We are aware that bullying is different to other kinds of unacceptable behaviour such as friendship fall outs or one off incidents.

We expect pupils to act safely and feel safe in school, including that they understand the issues relating to all forms of bullying and that they feel confident to seek support from school should they feel they or others are unsafe.

We also expect parents/carers to feel confident that their children are safe and cared for in school and that incidents when they do arise, are dealt with promptly and well.

The school is aware of its legal obligations including the Equality Act 2010. We are aware of our role within the local community supporting parents/carers and working with other agencies outside the school where appropriate.

We understand that bullying is not confined to the pupil body, and we acknowledge that staff can be bullied by pupils, parents/carers or other members of staff.

Policy Development

This policy was formulated in consultation with the whole school community with input from:

- Members of staff- (through regular agenda items at staff meetings and consultation documents.)
- Advisory Board – (discussions at Advisory Board meetings, training.)
- Parents/carers – (have been encouraged to contribute their views regarding the policy and have been invited to complete surveys to help the school improve how it addresses any issues of bullying.
- Children and young people – (pupils have contributed to the development of the policy through the school council and PSHE discussions. The school council will develop a pupil friendly version which will be displayed in each class and will be sent home.)
- The Head of Wellbeing for DSAT

Roles and Responsibilities

- The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation and liaising with the Head of Wellbeing, parents/carers, LA and outside agencies.
- The Head teacher will manage bullying incidents and the reporting and recording of bullying incidents.
- Policy development and review involving pupils, staff, Advisory Board, parents/carers and relevant local agencies will be conducted by the Executive Headteacher and Head of School.
- All staff members are responsible for implementing the policy and monitoring its effectiveness in practice.

Definition of Bullying

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) and its members have a shared definition of bullying based on research from across the world over the last 30 years and it is the definition which we have adopted.

ABA defines bullying 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 be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online'

Behaviour often associated with bullying

Baiting

Baiting can be used in bullying both on and offline. It can be used to bully someone to get 'a rise' out of them and it can be used to antagonize those who might be bullying others to get them to bully. Sometimes baiting is used secretly to try and get a person to explode in a rage or react negatively/loudly so that they get in to trouble.

Banter

The dictionary describes banter as: 'the playful and friendly exchange of teasing remarks'.

Bullying is often justified as being just banter. It may start as banter, but some types of banter are bullying and need to be addressed as bullying.

Types of Banter

- Friendly Banter- There's no intention to hurt and everyone knows its limits
- Ignorant Banter- crosses the line with no intention to hurt, will often say sorry.
- Malicious Banter- Done to humiliate a person-often in public

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 hate crime related bullying and cyberbullying. If the target might be in danger, then intervention is urgently required.

What does bullying look like?

Bullying behaviour can be:

- Physical – hits, damage to belongings
- Verbal – threats, insults, nasty teasing
- Psychological – rumors, social exclusion
- Cyberbullying – carried out through the use of electronic devices such as computers, laptops, smartphones, tablets or gaming consoles, via apps and or social media

Although bullying can occur between individuals it can often take place in the presence (virtually or physically) of others who become the 'bystanders' or 'accessories'.

Bullying can take place between:

- young people
- young people and staff
- between staff
- individuals, parents, staff or groups

Forms of bullying

Specific types of bullying include:

Prejudice Related Bullying

Bullying behaviour can be based on prejudice or negative attitudes and any member of our community can be a target of bullying behaviours, including staff. Some forms of bullying are aimed at specific groups or based on factors which put individuals at a greater risk of being bullied. These groups include but are not solely restricted to the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity.

Under the Equalities Act 2010 it is against the law to discriminate against anyone because of:

- disability (disabilist)
- gender reassignment (transphobic)
- ethnicity (racist)
- based on a religion or belief
- sexual orientation (homophobic or biphobic)
- sex (sexist)
- age
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity

These are called 'protected characteristics'.

As part of the requirement on schools to promote fundamental British values, schools must proactively challenge derogatory and discriminatory language and behaviour including that which is racist, homophobic, biphobic, transphobic and disabilist in nature. We will record these types of bullying, even that which represents a one-off incident, and report them to the local authority for monitoring purposes.

Other vulnerable groups include

- bullying related to appearance or health
- bullying of young carers or looked after children or otherwise related to home circumstances

Although the above do not currently receive protection under the Equality Act 2010, bullying for these reasons is just as serious. There is no hierarchy of bullying – all forms should be taken equally seriously and dealt with appropriately.

Prejudice Related Language

Racist, homophobic, biphobic, transphobic and disabilist language includes terms of abuse used towards people because of their race/ethnicity/nationality; because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, or are perceived to be, or have a parent/carer or sibling who is; because they have a learning or physical disability. Such language is generally used to refer to something or someone as inferior. This may also be used to taunt young people who are different in some way or their friends, family members or their parents/carers.

In the case of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic language particularly, dismissing it as banter is not helpful as even if these terms are not referring to a person's sexual orientation or gender identity they are using the terms to mean inferior, bad, broken or wrong. We will challenge the use of prejudice related language in our school even if it appears to be being used without any intent. Persistent use of prejudice related language and/or bullying will be dealt with as with any other form of bullying.

Where does bullying take place?

Bullying is not confined to the school premises. It also persists outside school, on the journey to and from school and in the local community and may continue into the next stage of education.

The school acknowledges its responsibilities to support families if bullying occurs off the premises.

Where bullying outside school is reported to school staff, it will be investigated and acted on. The headteacher will 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 will always be informed. While school staff members have the power to discipline pupils for bullying that occurs outside school, we will 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.

Cyberbullying

The increasing use of digital technology and the internet has also provided new and particularly intrusive ways for bullies to reach their victims.

Cyberbullying can take many forms and bullying online can often start in school and then be progressed online or start online and influence behaviour in school.

Whilst most incidents of Cyberbullying occur outside school, we will offer support and guidance to parents/carers and their children who experience online bullying and will treat Cyberbullying with the same severity as any other forms of bullying.

Cyberbullying can include: -

- hacking into someone's accounts/sites
- Posting prejudice /hate messages
- Impersonating someone on line
- Public posting of images
- Exclusion
- Threats and manipulation
- Stalking

We will ensure that our children are taught safe ways to use the internet (see our online safety policy) and encourage good online behaviour.

Reporting and Responding to Bullying

Our school has clear and well publicised systems to report bullying for the whole school.

We use **STOP 1** and **STOP 2**

STOP 1 is a child friendly way for children to recognise that they are being bullied and helps them to define what is happening.

**Several
Times
On
Purpose**

STOP 2 is a child friendly course of action for children to take.

Start Telling Other People

In the event of bullying, parents will be informed of the nature of any incidents and any action taken.

Parents will be informed of their child's role in the bullying as a target, ring-leader or bystander. Appropriate action using our behaviour policy will be taken with regards to pupils involved in bullying depending on the age of the child and nature of the bullying.

Systems of Reporting

Children are encouraged to report any incidents of bullying to any member of staff, whether they are the target or a bystander. Likewise, parents/carers are welcome to discuss any bullying worries with a member of staff e.g. class teacher, learning support assistant etc. The member of staff will log the incident on our Child Protection Online System (CPOMS) and the matter will be investigated by the member of staff the issue was reported to or passed on to the Head of School and Executive Headteacher.

Parents/Carers can report bullying directly to the class teacher either verbally at the door or via the office (phone call/email). Parents/carers can also inform SLT via the office.

Procedures when bullying is reported

All reported incidents will be taken seriously by the school and will be investigated involving all parties. The staff are aware of and follow the same procedures.

After an allegation of bullying

- All parties including the target, perpetrator (child bullying) and all others involved will be interviewed and information recorded on CPOMS
- Parents/carers will be informed as to the involvement of their child.
- Appropriate disciplinary sanctions in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy will be put in place and these will be graded according to the seriousness of the incident but will send out a message that bullying is unacceptable.
- The response may vary according to the type of bullying and may involve other agencies where appropriate.
- Any allegations of bullying will be followed up, in particular keeping in touch with the person who reported the situation, parents/carers.
- Support will be given, appropriate to the situation, for all involved such as - solution focused, restorative approach, circle of friends, individual work with the target, perpetrator, bystanders and others affected by the bullying, a referral to outside agencies will be made if appropriate.
- The wider community will be liaised with, for example the police maybe involved if the bullying is taking place off the school premises i.e. in the case of cyberbullying or hate crime.

If there are continued incidents a risk assessment will be completed by SLT and the school DSLs.

Recording and Evaluation

Bullying incidents are recorded on CPOMs by the member of staff who deals with the incident and this is then stored in the system. The information stored will be used to ensure individual incidents are followed up. It will be used to identify trends and inform preventative work in school and development of the policy.

This information will be presented to the Advisory Board as part of the annual report. This policy will be reviewed and updated annually.

Strategies for Preventing Bullying

As part of our commitment to the safety and welfare of our pupils, at Woolden Hill School have developed the following strategies to promote positive behaviour and discourage bullying behaviour.

- Ensuring that the school actively promotes the celebration of difference and diversity as part of our core values
- Anti-Bullying week annually in November and Safer Internet Day in February
- PSHE/Citizenship lessons and cross curriculum themes.
- Celebration events. E.g. Achievement assemblies on Fridays
- Specific curriculum input on areas of concern such as cyber bullying and internet safety
- School council
- Playground Buddying

Reactive programmes for vulnerable groups or groups involved in bullying delivered by our ELSA. For example: -

- Restorative Justice
- Counselling and/or Mediation schemes
- Small group work

Support for parents/carers

- Parent information events (PIEs)/ information-on the school website

Support for school staff

- All staff receive regular training on the schools antibullying strategy

Links with other policies:

- Behaviour
- Safeguarding
- Equalities Policy
- PSHE and Citizenship
- Confidentiality

Related Documents/Guidance:

- [DfE: Preventing and tackling bullying \(July 2017\)](#)
- [DfE: Equality Act 2010: Advice for schools \(June 2018\)](#)
- [Ofsted: School inspection handbook \(April 2024\)](#)
- [Ofsted: Education inspection framework \(July 2023\)](#)
- [DfE: Keeping Children Safe in Education \(September 2024\)](#)
- [DfE: Behaviour in schools \(February 2024\)](#)
- [Ofsted: No place for bullying: How schools create a positive culture and prevent and tackle bullying \(June 2012\)](#)
- [Embedding anti-bullying in schools DCSF-00668-2007](#)
- [Homophobic bullying-DCSF-00668-2007](#)

- Cyberbullying-DCSF-00658-2007
- Bullying Involving Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities-DCSF00372-2008
- Children and Young People's Services Nottinghamshire Anti-bullying Policy October 2009
- www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications