

**Hillside Primary School**

# **Anti-Bullying Policy**



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## Anti-Bullying Policy

This policy is based on DfE guidance “*Preventing and Tackling Bullying. Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies*”, July 2017 and it is recommended that schools read this guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>

### 1) Objectives of this Policy

This policy outlines what Hillside Primary School will do to prevent and tackle bullying. The policy has been drawn up through the involvement of the whole school community and we are committed to developing an anti-bullying culture whereby no bullying, including between adults or adults and children and young people will be tolerated.

### 2) Definition of bullying

Bullying is “behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally.” (DfE “Preventing and Tackling Bullying”, July 2017)

### 3) Forms of bullying

Bullying can take many forms (for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages, social media or gaming, which can include the use of images and video) and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, special educational needs or disabilities, or because a child is adopted, in care or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences.

### 4) Signs and Symptoms of bullying

Signs;

- Reluctance to attend school
- Damage to clothing or possessions
- Losing more items than usual
- Unexplained bruises/swellings
- Self-harm
- Deterioration of school work
- Being afraid to use the internet
- Becoming jittery about receiving text messages
- Unkempt uniform
- Bullying towards siblings
- Taking others' possessions without permission

## Symptoms;

- Loss of appetite
- Headaches
- Stomach aches
- Stammering
- Sudden changes in behaviour
- Lack of confidence
- Signs of depression
- Nervous/edginess
- Difficulty in concentration
- Lack of motivation to complete work

These are examples but this list is not exhaustive.

## 5) Prevention

The school community will:

- 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 the school's approach to take account of developments in technology, for instance 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, sexuality or appearance related difference. Also children with different family situations, such as looked after children or those with caring responsibilities. We will teach children that using any prejudice based language is unacceptable
- use specific organisations or resources for help with particular problems. The school will 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 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.
- work with the wider community such as the police and children's services to agree a clearly understood approach to cases where bullying is particularly serious or persistent and where a criminal offence may have been committed. The school will 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 cyber-bullying
- provide an inclusive and safe environment where pupils can openly discuss the cause of their bullying, without fear of further bullying or discrimination. Celebrating success is an important way of creating a positive school ethos around the issue.

## **7) Intervention – Support for those who are bullied**

### **Pupils:**

The nature and level of support will depend on the individual circumstances and the level of need. These can include a quiet word from a teacher that knows the pupil well, asking experienced/trained staff such as the ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) to provide support, providing formal counselling, engaging with parents, referring to local authority children's services, completing a Common Assessment Framework or referring to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

### **Staff:**

Bullying of staff, whether by pupils, parents or colleagues, is unacceptable. The DfE have published a separate advice note which provides advice for headteachers and all school staff on how to protect themselves from cyberbullying and how to tackle it if it happens.

## **8) Intervention – Discipline and tackling underlying issues of bullying**

The school will apply disciplinary measures to pupils who bully in order to show clearly that their behaviour is wrong. Disciplinary measures will 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 may need support themselves.

## **9) Links with other school policies and practices**

This Policy links with a number of other school policies, practices and action plans including:

- Behaviour Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- PSHE Policy

## 10) Links to legislation

- Schools' duty to promote good behaviour: Section 89 Education and Inspections Act 2006 and Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2014
- Power to tackle poor behaviour outside school
- The Equality Act 2010

## 11) Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of:

- School Governors to take a lead role in monitoring and reviewing this policy.
- Governors, the Headteacher, Senior Leaders, Teaching and Non-teaching staff to be aware of this policy and implement it accordingly.
- The Headteacher to communicate the policy to the school community and to ensure that disciplinary measures are applied fairly, consistently and reasonably.
- Staff to support and uphold the policy
- Parents/carers to support their children and work in partnership with the school
- Pupils to abide by the policy.

## 12) Monitoring & review, policy into practice

The Curriculum Committee will report on a regular basis to the governing body on incidents of bullying and outcomes. The school will ensure that they regularly monitor and evaluate mechanisms to ensure that the policy is being consistently applied. Any issues identified will be incorporated into the school's action planning.

**Designated Governor Committee:** Curriculum + Pupils

**Name/Signature of Headteacher:** Simon Minter

**Date:** June 2019

**Review date:** June 2022

## Supporting Organisations and Guidance

- Anti-Bullying Alliance: [www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)
- Beat Bullying: [www.beatbullying.org](http://www.beatbullying.org)
- Childline: [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)
- DfE: “Preventing and Tackling Bullying. Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies”, and “Supporting children and young people who are bullied: advice for schools” March 2014: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>
- DfE: “No health without mental health”: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/no-health-without-mental-health-a-cross-government-outcomes-strategy>
- Family Lives: [www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)
- Kidscape: [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk)
- MindEd: [www.minded.org.uk](http://www.minded.org.uk)
- NSPCC: [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)
- PSHE Association: [www.pshe-association.org.uk](http://www.pshe-association.org.uk)
- Restorative Justice Council: [www.restorativejustice.org.uk](http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk)
- The Diana Award: [www.diana-award.org.uk](http://www.diana-award.org.uk)
- Victim Support: [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk)
- Young Minds: [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)
- Young Carers: [www.youngcarers.net](http://www.youngcarers.net)

## Cyberbullying

- Childnet International: [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)
- Digizen: [www.digizen.org](http://www.digizen.org)
- Internet Watch Foundation: [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)
- Think U Know: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)
- UK Safer Internet Centre: [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

## LGBT

- EACH: [www.eachaction.org.uk](http://www.eachaction.org.uk)
- Pace: [www.pacehealth.org.uk](http://www.pacehealth.org.uk)
- Schools Out: [www.schools-out.org.uk](http://www.schools-out.org.uk)
- Stonewall: [www.stonewall.org.uk](http://www.stonewall.org.uk)

## SEND

- Changing Faces: [www.changingfaces.org.uk](http://www.changingfaces.org.uk)
- Mencap: [www.mencap.org.uk](http://www.mencap.org.uk)
- DfE: SEND code of practice: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

## Racism and Hate

- Anne Frank Trust: [www.annefrank.org.uk](http://www.annefrank.org.uk)
- Kick it Out: [www.kickitout.org](http://www.kickitout.org)
- Report it: [www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk)
- Stop Hate: [www.stophateuk.org](http://www.stophateuk.org)
- Show Racism the Red Card: [www.srtrc.org/educational](http://www.srtrc.org/educational)

## Additional Content

### Dealing with Incidents

The following steps may be taken when dealing with incidents:

- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached
- A clear and precise account of the incident will be recorded and given to the Headteacher.
- The Headteacher will interview all concerned and will record the incident
- Teachers/Form Tutors will be kept informed
- When responding to cyberbullying concerns the school will take all available steps to identify the bully, including looking at the school systems, identifying and interviewing possible witnesses, and contacting the service provider and the police, if necessary. The police will need to be involved to enable the service provider to look into the data of another user.
- Where the bullying takes place outside of the school site then the school will ensure that the concern is investigated and that appropriate action is taken in accordance with the schools behaviour policy.
- Parents/carers will be kept informed
- Sanctions will be used as appropriate and in consultation with all parties concerned
- If necessary and appropriate, the police or other local services will be consulted

### Supporting Pupils

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

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with their teacher or a member of staff of their choice
- Being advised to keep a record of the bullying as evidence and discuss how respond to concerns and build resilience as appropriate.
- Reassuring the pupil and providing continuous support
- Restoring self-esteem and confidence
- Working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance

*Pupils who have bullied will be helped by:*

- Discussing what happened and establishing the concern and the need to change
- Informing parents/carers to help change the attitude and behaviour of the child
- Providing appropriate education and support
- If online, requesting content be removed and reporting account/content to service provider
- Sanctioning in line with school behaviour/discipline policy. This may include official warnings, detentions, removal or privileges, fixed-term and permanent exclusions.
- Speaking with police or local services

### Supporting Adults

*Adults (staff and parents) who have been bullied or affected will be supported by:*

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the concern with the designed lead and/or a senior member of staff/headteacher
- Being advised to keep a record of the bullying as evidence and discuss how respond to concerns and build resilience as appropriate.
- Where the bullying takes place outside of the school site then the school will ensure that the concern is investigated and that appropriate action is taken in accordance with the schools behaviour and discipline policy
- Reassuring and offering appropriate support
- Working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance

*Adults (staff and parents) who have bullied will be helped by:*

- Discussing what happened with a senior member of staff and establishing the concern
- Clarifying the schools official procedures for complaints or concerns
- If online, requesting content be removed and reporting account/content to service provider
- Instigating disciplinary, civil or legal action