

Gorsewood Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy



Written by:	HBC Emma Jackson	Date: March 2016
Approved by:	Mark Dennett - COG	Date: November 2022 FGB Meeting
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Next review due by:	Annually	



Anti-Bullying Policy

Be Your Best Self!

We aim to give all our pupils opportunities to develop their full potential within a caring and supportive environment, providing a wide and varied range of activities to enrich the curriculum and create a love of learning.

We believe all pupils have the right to learn in a safe, nurturing environment where they can truly be themselves. Our behaviour approach is informed by a dynamic, developmental approach to working with children that supports their emotional and social wellbeing. It uses the latest research in neuroscience, attachment theory and child development, drawing on research into the role of creativity and play in developing emotional resilience.

With a programme of continuous development, our vision is for all our staff to receive regular training and to use this insight to build healthy development, encourage pupils to increasingly self-regulate and embed strategies in social and emotional learning and positive behaviour choices, therefore underpinning academic progress.

Through our work with the Happy in School Project we aim to empower pupils so they are in control of their feelings. They are taught to develop resilience and use a range of strategies and techniques to use in tricky situations. Our positive approach to behaviour management teaches children to take ownership of who they are and as a result they become happier, attain more and reach their potential.

Introduction

Bullying is the wilful, conscious desire to hurt, threaten or frighten someone physically and/or verbally and persisted in over a period of time.

Gorsewood Primary School works with children and families as part of its activities. The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- prevent bullying from happening between children and young people who are a part of our organisation or take part in our activities
- make sure bullying is stopped as soon as possible if it does happen and that those involved receive the support they need
- provide information to all staff, volunteers, children and their families about what we should all do to prevent and deal with bullying.

This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of Gorsewood Primary School, including all staff, the board of governors, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

Aims and Objectives

Bullying is wrong and damages individual children. We therefore do all we can to prevent it, by developing a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable.

We aim, as a school, to produce a safe and secure environment where all can learn without anxiety.

This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur.

We aim to make all those connected with the school aware of our opposition to bullying, and we make clear each person's responsibilities with regard to the eradication of bullying in our school.

Bullying can include:

Type of bullying	Definition
Emotional	Being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting
Physical	Hitting, kicking, pushing, taking another's belongings, any use of violence
Racial	Racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
Direct or indirect verbal	Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
Cyber-bullying ³	Bullying that takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps or gaming sites

The Role of Governors

The governing body supports the Headteacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. This policy statement makes it very clear that the governing body does not allow bullying to take place in our school, and that any incidents of bullying that do occur are taken very seriously and dealt with appropriately.

The Role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to implement the school anti-bullying strategy and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are aware of the school policy and know how to deal with incidents of bullying. The Headteacher reports to the governing body about the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy on request.

The Headteacher ensures that all children know that bullying is wrong, and that it is unacceptable behaviour in this school. The Headteacher draws the attention of children to this fact at suitable moments.

For example, if an incident occurs, the Headteacher may decide to use assembly as a forum in which to discuss with other children why this behaviour was wrong, and why a pupil is being punished.

The Headteacher ensures that all staff receive sufficient training to be equipped to deal with all incidents of bullying.

The Headteacher sets the school climate of mutual support and praise for success, so making bullying less likely. When children feel they are important and belong to a friendly and welcoming school, bullying is far less likely to be part of their behaviour.

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. At Gorsewood Primary School, we will work alongside parents to support and tackle bullying which occurs outside of school premises,

including online bullying. If the misbehaviour could be criminal or poses a serious threat to a member of the public, the police will always be informed.

The Role of the Teacher

Teachers in our school take all forms of bullying seriously, and intervene to prevent incidents from taking place. They keep their own records of all incidents that happen in their class and that they are aware of in the school.

If teachers witness an act of bullying, they do all they can to support the child who is being bullied. If a child is being bullied over a period of time, then, after consultation with the Head teacher, the teacher informs the child's parents.

If teachers become aware of any bullying taking place between members of a class, it is dealt with immediately. This may involve counselling and support for the victim of the bullying, and consequences for the child who has carried out the bullying. We spend time talking to the child who has bullied: we explain why the action of the child was wrong, and we endeavour to help the child change their behaviour in future. If a child is repeatedly involved in bullying other children, we inform the Head teacher and the pastoral team. We then invite the child's parents into the school to discuss the situation. In more extreme cases, for example where these initial discussions have proven ineffective, the Head teacher may contact external support agencies such as the social services.

Teachers attempt to support all children in their class and to establish a climate of trust and respect for all. By praising, rewarding and celebrating the success of all children, we aim to prevent incidents of bullying.

The Role of Parents

Parents who are concerned that their child might be being bullied, or who suspected that their child may be the perpetrator of bullying, should contact their child's class teacher 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.

We will seek to prevent bullying by:

- developing a code of behaviour that sets out how everyone involved in our organisation is expected to behave, in face-to-face contact and online, and within and outside of our activities
- holding regular discussions with staff, volunteers, children, young people and families who use our organisation about bullying and how to prevent it. These discussions will focus on: - group members' responsibilities to look after one another and uphold the behaviour code - practising skills such as listening to each other - respecting the fact that we are all different - making sure that no one is without friends - dealing with problems in a positive way - checking that our anti-bullying measures are working well
- providing support and training for all staff and volunteers on dealing with all forms of bullying, including racial, sexist, homophobic and sexual bullying
- putting clear and robust anti-bullying procedures in place
- making sure our response to incidents of bullying takes into account: - the needs of the person being bullied - the needs of the person displaying bullying behaviour - needs of any bystanders - our organisation as a whole.
- reviewing the plan developed to address any incidents of bullying at regular intervals, in order to ensure that the problem has been resolved in the long term.

We recognise that:

- bullying causes real distress. It can affect a person's health and development and, at the extreme, can cause significant harm

- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- everyone has a role to play in preventing all forms of bullying (including online) and putting a stop to bullying.

We recognise that bullying is closely related to how we respect and recognise the value of diversity. We will be proactive about:

- seeking opportunities to learn about and celebrate difference
- increasing diversity within our staff, volunteers, children and young people
- welcoming new members to our organisation.

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures including:

- Child protection/safeguarding policy statement.
- Procedures for responding to concerns about a child or young person's wellbeing.
- Dealing with allegations made against a child or young person.
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers.
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Online safety policy and procedures for responding to concerns about online abuse.
- Equality and diversity policies.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Headteacher, who reports to governors about the effectiveness of the policy on request.

This anti-bullying policy is the governors' responsibility and they review its effectiveness annually. They do this by discussion with the Headteacher. Governors analyse information with regard to gender, age and ethnic background of all children involved in bullying incidents.

Nominated anti-bullying lead

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Senior lead for safeguarding and child protection

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Reviewed September 2022 – no changes

Policy to be reviewed when there is a change in HBC Policy or a change in legislation.