



Whole School Policy On Anti-Bullying

November 2021

Anti-Bullying Policy

Introduction

At Holly Primary we aim to provide a safe, caring and friendly climate for learning for all our pupils to allow them to improve their life chances and help them maximise their potential. This includes encouraging open discussion around differences between people and celebrating diversity.

We recognise that a school has a responsibility to have an understanding of the community they serve and to respond to identified concerns including proactively teaching children about potential threats to their health and safety. We will therefore adopt a contextual approach to bullying and peer on peer abuse, working with families and outside agencies where appropriate.

We would expect pupils to act safely and feel safe in school, including understanding the issues relating to bullying and feeling confident to seek support from school should they feel unsafe.

We also want parents to feel confident that their children are safe and cared for in school and that when incidents do arise they are dealt with promptly and effectively.

The school is aware of its legal obligations including the Equality Act 2010. This means as well as taking into account the context of any concerns, which need addressing, we will consider where a pupil may have a protected characteristic. This will include ensuring any action taken by the school has taken into account their needs and that any actions taken by the school do not put the pupil at greater harm.

Policy Development

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

Members of staff, governors, parents/carers, children and young people.

Pupils contribute to the development of the policy through the school council and circle time discussions.

Parents will be encouraged to contribute by taking part in written consultations, parent meetings, coffee mornings and questionnaires.

Roles and responsibilities

The Head teacher (Mr White) has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation and liaising with the governing body, parents /carers, Local

Authority and outside agencies and appointing an Anti-bullying coordinator who will have general responsibility for handling the implementation of this policy.

The designated safeguarding leads in our school are: Mr White, Miss McGuiness, Mr Bennett and Miss Middleton.

Safeguarding is the responsibility of all staff, however all staff, parents and pupils need to be aware of who to report to and how to report any safeguarding concerns.

The Anti-bullying Coordinators at Holly Primary school are: Miss McGuiness and Mr White.

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

The nominated Governor with the responsibility for Anti-Bullying is: Mrs Crawford

Definition of Bullying

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 through cyberspace.

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/what-bullying-0>

How does bullying differ from teasing/falling out between friends or other types of aggressive behaviour?

- There is a deliberate intention to hurt or humiliate.
- There is a power imbalance that makes it hard for the victim to defend themselves.
- It is usually persistent.

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 into 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

Peer on Peer Abuse

This can include but is not limited to:-

- Bullying including cyberbullying
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment
- Physical abuse
- Sexting
- Initiation/hazing, violence and rituals

Sexist and sexual bullying

Sexual Harassment –unwanted contact of a sexual nature which can occur on and offline This behaviour is considered to violate a child's dignity and /or make them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated and /or create a hostile, offensive or sexualised environment.

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 and peer on peer abuse. If the target or alleged perpetrator might be in danger then intervention is urgently required including a safeguarding referral.

What does bullying look like?

Bullying behaviour can be physical, verbal or emotional and includes:-

- physical assault
- taking or damaging belongings
- name calling
- taunting
- mocking
- making offensive comments
- cyber bullying - inappropriate text messaging and e mailing; sending offensive or degrading images, impersonating and hacking into accounts online using internet enabled devices.
- producing offensive graffiti
- gossiping and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours
- excluding people from groups.

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 or groups

Prejudice Related Bullying

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

- age
- being or becoming a transsexual person
- being married or in a civil partnership
- being pregnant or having a child
- disability

- race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin including Gypsy, Roma, Travellers
- religion, belief or lack of religion/belief
- sex /gender
- sexual orientation

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 as 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 are 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 transsexual, or are perceived to be, or have a parent/carer, sibling or friend 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 perceived to be different in some way or their friends, family members or their parents/carers are perceived to be different

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 Further Education.

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

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 online
- 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 e-safety policy) and encourage good online behaviour.

Reporting and responding to bullying

Our school has clear and well publicised systems to report any incidents of Bullying. (See Concern for Child's Safety and Welfare form).

Procedures

All reported incidents will be taken seriously and investigated involving all parties.

Staff are aware of and follow the same procedures.

Where appropriate, we will take the following actions;

- Interviewing all parties

- Informing parents / carers
- Implementing appropriate disciplinary sanctions in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy. These should be graded according to the seriousness of the incident but should send out a message that bullying is unacceptable
- Being clear that responses may also vary according to the type of bullying and may involve other agencies where appropriate
- Following up, in particular keeping in touch with the person who reported the situation, parents/carers.
- Having a clear complaints' procedure for parents/carers who are not satisfied with the school's actions
- Having a range of follow up responses and support appropriate to the situation for all involved such as - solution focused, restorative approach, circle of friends, individual work with victim, perpetrator and bystanders, referral to outside agencies if appropriate
- Liaising with the wider community if the bullying is taking place off the school premises i.e. in the case of cyberbullying or hate crime.

Recording bullying and evaluating the policy

Bullying incidents will be recorded by the member of staff who deals with the incident and this will be stored by the Anti-bullying coordinator. These will be transferred onto our central Concern log for the Senior Leadership to review to ensure that 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 discussed by staff in regular staff meetings.

This information will be presented to the Governors as part of the annual report.

Prejudice related bullying/incidents will be reported to the local authority using the guidelines set out in Nottinghamshire guidelines for schools: Bullying and Prejudiced – related incidents (August 2014).

This information will be stored in accordance with GDPR.

Strategies for preventing bullying

As part of our on-going commitment to the safety and welfare of our pupils we have developed the following strategies to promote positive behaviour and discourage bullying behaviour.

These include,

- Celebrating good behaviour and achievements in our weekly celebration assembly.
- Involvement in SEAL including Anti-bullying unit.
- Anti-Bullying week annually in November.

- PSHE/Citizenship lessons and cross curriculum themes.
- Specific curriculum input on areas of concern such as cyber bullying and internet safety
- Student voice, school council
- Peer mentoring schemes and/or Playground Buddying and other student led initiatives
- Reactive programmes for vulnerable groups or groups involved in bullying.
For example: -
 - Restorative Justice
 - Counselling and/or Mediation schemes
 - Small group work
 - Specific initiatives for identified groups such as young people whose first language is not English, SEND/disabled students, children who have been bullied or are displaying bullying behaviour
 - Support for parents/carers (Parent groups & Parent information events/information)
 - Staff training and development for all staff including those involved in lunchtime and before and after school activities

Links with other policies and why

Policy	Why
Behaviour Policy	Rewards and sanctions, Codes of conduct
Safeguarding Policy	Child protection
E-safety and Acceptable use policy	Cyber bullying and e-safety
Equalities policy	Prejudice related crime(homophobia, race, religion and culture and SEN/disability)
Confidentiality Policy	Reporting and recording
PSHE/Citizenship	Strategies to prevent bullying
Complaints' Policy	Guidelines to make a complaint if families are not happy with the school's response

Useful organisations

Anti-bullying Alliance (ABA) - <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/>

Brings together more than 65 organisations with the aim of reducing bullying and creating safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn.

Mencap <https://www.mencap.org.uk/>

Mencap is a learning disability charity that provides information and support to children and adults with a learning disability, and to their families and carers.

Stonewall <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/>

The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender charity

Educational Action Challenging Homophobia (EACH) <https://each.education/>

Educational Action Challenging Homophobia (EACH) is a charity and training agency helping people and organisations affected by homophobia. The website gives guidance, contact details and a freephone helpline.

School's Out www.schools-out.org.uk

Childnet International www.childnet-int.org

Childnet International - The UK's safer internet centre

NSPCC/ChildLine www.nspcc.org.uk, www.childline.org.uk

ChildLine is a private and confidential service for children and young people up to the age of 19. NSPCC run several campaigns to support young people around bullying and internet safety

Show Racism the Red Card <https://www.theredcard.org/>



Confidential

Concern for a child's safety and welfare

Pupil's Name:	Date of Birth:
Date and Time of Incident:	Date and Time of Writing:
Name and designation of person completing:	Signature:
Note the reason(s) for recording the incident	
Record the following factually: Who? What (if a verbal disclosure by a child use their own words) When (date and time of incident) Any witnesses?	
Note actions, including names of anyone to whom your information was passed.	
Please pass this form on to Duncan White or Sophie McGuinness as soon as possible	
Designated Person Actions:	