



Park Street C of E Primary School



POLICY:

ANTI-BULLYING

Date of approval:

SEPTEMBER 2024

Date of review:

SEPTEMBER 2026

Rationale

Bullying is unacceptable behaviour.

Park Street C of E Primary School and Nursery is committed to creating a safe environment, detailed in our Behaviour Policy, where children can:

- learn, work and play
- feel valued
- appreciate differences
- talk about their worries knowing that an adult will listen and offer help.

We will make it clear to pupils, staff, parents and governors that when bullying happens we will work as a community in accordance with the policy set out in this document to help both the people who are harmed and the perpetrators. We will ensure the safety of the child who has been bullied and do our best to support improved behaviour from the child who has bullied.

We believe that nobody should suffer bullying because of the way they look or because of their gender or sexual orientation nor because they have a different cultural background to other pupils.

The Department of Education (DfE) defines bullying as:

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. 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.

Stopping violence and ensuring immediate physical safety is obviously a school's first priority but emotional bullying can be more damaging than physical; teachers and schools have to make their own judgements about each specific case.

Many experts say that bullying involves an imbalance of power between the perpetrator and the victim. This could involve perpetrators of bullying having control over the relationship which makes it difficult for those they bully to defend themselves. The imbalance of power can manifest itself in several ways, it may be physical, psychological (knowing what upsets someone), derive from an intellectual imbalance, or by having access to the support of a group, or the capacity to socially isolate. It can result in the intimidation of a person or persons through the threat of violence or by isolating them either physically or online.

Low-level disruption and the use of offensive language can in itself have a significant impact on its target. If left unchallenged or dismissed as banter or horseplay it can also lead to reluctance to report other behaviour. Early intervention can help to set clear expectations of the behaviour that is and isn't acceptable and help stop negative behaviours escalating. Since September 2014 a greater focus on how well school leaders tackle low-level disruption was included in Ofsted inspections. (DfE, July 2017)

A child-friendly definition might be:

"People doing or saying nasty or unkind things to you on purpose, more than once, which it is difficult to stop."
[Bullying Involving Children with SEN and Disabilities, Anti-Bullying Alliance.]

Bullying can be:

- Physical – pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching and any other forms of violence, threats of violence, theft
- Verbal – name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing
- Emotional – excluding, tormenting, ridicule, humiliation
- Racist – racial taunts, graffiti, gestures

Persistent bullying can result in:

- Depression
- Low self-esteem
- Shyness
- Poor academic achievement
- Isolation

Prevention & strategies to reinforce Park Street C of E's Policy on Anti- bullying:

- Anti-bullying week

- Children are made aware of the strategies to deal with low level issues and what to do in different situations including situations of cyberbullying
- Children participate in role play work in class as part of PSHE
- Making use of curriculum opportunities to raise pupil awareness e.g. through RE, cross curricular themes, drama, story writing and literature
- A whole school reward system
- Continual focus on the values of the school. (Love, Joy, Courage and Truth)
- Good quality role models
- Adult modelling of appropriate response to a wide range of scenarios
- Children & parents have a good knowledge of the procedure/policy
- Children have a clear understanding of their rights & responsibilities
- E-safety frequently discussed and taught
- E-safety Day/Week
- Use of Play Leaders
- Adults to deal with a situation, even if minor. Talking to the children may prevent the situation escalating.

Park Street C of E Primary School and Nursery Procedure:

The following is a list of actions available to staff depending on the perceived seriousness of the situation. The emphasis is always on a caring, listening approach as bullies are often victims too – that is why they bully.

Staff in this school will -

- Apply the school's Behaviour Policy, ensuring that they are familiar with its aims and follow the procedures detailed in it
- Encourage the children to talk about bullying and listen to them
- Be sensitive to a pupil's need for privacy and respect
- Act – and be seen to act
- Give positive role models
- Take part in National Anti-Bullying Week each year to maintain awareness of the issue
- Take every opportunity to promote anti-bullying messages
- Include behaviour on the agenda of at every meeting of the Pupil Parliament

Pupils in this school will be encouraged to recognise each other's rights to

- Be physically safe
- Keep own possessions
- Be free of insult, derogatory terms and teasing
- Be able to associate with other children for companionship and friendship

And to take responsibility for

- Safety of others
- Security of everyone's possessions
- Freedom from hurt by name-calling, teasing
- Including all pupils in play and learning activities
- Informing staff if they know that bullying is happening

SEND

We recognise that some children may be vulnerable to bullying because they have specific problems such as poor co-ordination, speech or language difficulties. We are aware that these children may need extra help. Sometimes preparing all the children by discussing issues generally may avoid problems but here sensitivity and the teacher's judgement on the situation should be used.

We aim to encourage other children to empathise with those who have particular needs or disabilities within the school. Some children may not understand why other children may behave differently and some children's SEND needs are not immediately apparent.

Racist Incidents

A racist incident is:

“any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person”.

The school's Policy for Preventing and Dealing with Racist Incidents details procedures for dealing with incidents of racism. It should be followed in all cases where bullying involves racism, including completion of the Bullying and Harassment Record and Monitoring Form. The incident will be upload onto the CPOMS system.

Homophobic , biphobic and transphobic incidents

A homophobic, biphobic and transphobic incident is:

“any incident which is perceived to be homophobic, biphobic or transphobic incidents by the victim or any other person.”

At Park Street C of E Primary School and Nursery we discuss differences between people that could motivate bullying, such as gender or sexuality. We teach children that using any prejudice based language is unacceptable. Any report of Homophobic and biphobic and transphobic incidents, will be recorded on the incident log and involve the completion of the Bullying and Harassment Record and Monitoring Form. The incident is also uploaded onto the CPOMS system.

Cyberbullying

The rapid development of, and widespread access to, technology has provided a new medium for 'virtual' bullying, which can occur in or outside school. Cyber-bullying is a different form of bullying and can happen at all times of the day, with a potentially bigger audience, and more accessories as people forward on content at a click.

The Education Act 2011 amended the power in the Education Act 1996 to provide that when an electronic device, such as a mobile phone, has been seized by a member of staff who has been formally authorised by the headteacher, that staff member can examine data or files, and delete these, where there is good reason to do so. This power applies to all schools and there is no need to have parental consent to search through a young person's mobile phone.

If an electronic device that is prohibited by the school rules has been seized and the member of staff has reasonable ground to suspect that it contains evidence in relation to an offence, they must give the device to the police as soon as it is reasonably practicable. Material on the device that is suspected to be evidence relevant to an offence, or that is a pornographic image of a child or an extreme pornographic image, should not be deleted prior to giving the device to the police. *If a staff member finds material that they do not suspect contains evidence in relation to an offence, they can decide whether it is appropriate to delete or retain the material as evidence of a breach of school discipline (DfE July 2017)

* Section 62 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 defines prohibited images of children. Section 63 of the Criminal Justice and Immigrations Act 2008 defines extreme pornographic images.

When Bullying Occurs

The aims of any intervention:

To make the child who has been bullied feel safe.

To ensure better behaviour from the child who has bullied and colluders.

To ensure that there is no repeat.

We will:

- Take the problem seriously
- Investigate the incident
- Interview children who have been bullied and those who have bullied separately
- Interview any witnesses
- Determine whether there is any pattern to the behaviour
- Establish facts!

Reporting and Recording Incidents of Bullying

Bullying will be

- initially investigated by the staff member involved and all information to be recorded on CPOMS.
- reported to and investigated by the Head. If the Headteacher is unavailable, then another member of the SLT

Appropriate action that could be taken in the event of bullying

We will

- Obtain an apology from child doing the bullying to child experiencing the bullying
- Ensure that the child doing the bullying takes responsibility for his/her actions
- Encourage the child doing the bullying to consider his/her behaviour

- Impose sanctions against the child[ren] doing the bullying
- Inform parents of child[ren] doing the bullying– Talk through our school policy and approach.
- Inform parents of the child who has been bullied- Talk through our school policy and approach.
- Insist on any “borrowed” or stolen items being returned
- Hold lessons, class discussions, assemblies about bullying
- Provide a safe haven during school hours for the child who experiences bullying
- Hold a follow up meeting with parents of child who has been bullied to report progress
- Hold a follow up meeting with parents of child who has bullied
- Inform all members of staff about the incident(s) and the action to be followed

Monitoring and Evaluating

This policy will be monitored by the SLT in the following way:

- Examining the Log of Incidents of Bullying and Log of Incidents of Racial Harassment on CPOMS. This is to be completed each half term and discussed at the SLT meeting
- Follow up with victims and their parents
- Whether individuals accused of bullying repeat their actions
- Discussion/review by staff
- Surveys of pupils.
- Surveys of parents/carers
- It will be reviewed annually

See also –

- Behaviour Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Religious Education Policy
- Equality Statements

PARK STREET C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY
Initial Investigation into Allegation of Bullying - FORM 1

Completed by name and role:
Date:
Name and role of individual/s making the allegation e.g. pupil, mother, midday supervisory assistant:
Form of referral e.g. verbal report, letter, phone call:
Details gathered to date:

Action taken to date:	
Completed by :	Date:

**PARK STREET C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY
Bullying and Harassment Record and Monitoring Form – FORM 2**

For each incident please complete one form and return to the Head for collation and monitoring.

1. Focus of Bullying/Harassment

Please tick all elements which apply in your understanding of the incident(s):

	Definitely applies	Possibly applies
Ability/Disability		
Age/ Maturity		
Appearance		
Class/Background/Socio economic		
Ethnicity/Race*		
Religion/Belief*		
Geographical area of home		
Gender		
Sexuality		
Size		

*See County Guidelines on Dealing with Racist Incidents

2. Manifestation/s of Bullying/Harassment (indicate those that apply)

Perception of individual: feelings of being bullied/harassed	
Isolation/ignoring	
Teasing	
General expressions of prejudice/stereotype	
Racist literature, graffiti or insignia	
Verbal abuse or name calling (specify below)	
Targeted graffiti or hurtful note writing	
Threats including threatened physical assault	
Mobile phone/text message bullying/harassment	
Internet related bullying/harassment	
Camera phone bullying/harassment	
Actual physical assault	
Other:	

3. Those involved:

Targets/wronged/distressed person/s (including ethnicity)	Person/s giving offence (including ethnicity)

4. Description of incident(s)

Please give a precise account including places, date, times and any witnesses.

Attach any further information (e.g. pupils' accounts, witness accounts, notes of meetings)

5. Action taken:

Please record all steps (including meetings, letters, investigations, sanctions)

6. Summary of those notified and/or involved

(Delete italic options where applicable)	Tick	Any details (e.g. dates)
Head Teacher		
Chair of Governors		
Class teacher		
'Target' parents/carers informed school by <i>letter/telephone/in person</i>		
'Target' parents/carers notified by <i>letter/telephone/in person</i>		
'Target' parents/carers invited to the school		
'Offending person/s' parents/carers informed school by <i>letter/telephone/in person</i>		
'Offending person/s' parents/carers notified by <i>letter/telephone/in person</i>		
'Offending person/s' parents/carers invited to the school		
Local Authority: SEA, Bullying advisor or MECSS		
Police		
Others (specify):		

PARK STREET C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY SUMMARY OF THE PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO ALLEGED/WITNESSED BULLYING INCIDENTS

An alleged or witnessed incident is reported to or witnessed by a member of staff.

Incident is investigated to establish the nature, roles and seriousness of it and those involved and Form 1 is completed

Staff should look for evidence that the behaviour:

- Has occurred before or by its nature has caused repeated experience
e.g. cyberbullying
- Was deliberately intended to cause distress and/or harm
- Has created a sense of powerlessness on the part of the individual being bullied
- Consider whether any aggravating factors such as equalities dimensions have been taken into account and been addressed

<p>Further action that school staff should take if no evidence of bullying is found: Form 1 Initial Investigation into allegation of bullying - copy attached</p>	<p>Further action that school staff should take if evidence of bullying is found: Form 2 CSF Integrated Bullying and Racist Incident Record - copy attached</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the nature of the incident and record details of the alleged incident on Form 1 • Provide support to those involved • Inform parents/carers of the pupils involved in the allegation • Decide if any action needs to be taken in accordance with the school's Behaviour policy • Provide PSHE/SEAL/Circle Time sessions if needed • Engage and inform external agencies if necessary e.g. the Local Authority about serious incidents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forms 1 and 2 are completed • Provide support to those involved • Inform parents/carers of those involved in the incident and the subsequent action that the school will be taking • Decide if any action needs to be taken in accordance with the school's Behaviour policy • Provide PSHE/SEAL/Circle Time sessions if needed • Engage and inform external agencies if necessary e.g. the Local Authority about serious incidents • Consider informing the Police

Disseminating the policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.