



Cockfield Primary School

Anti-bullying Policy

Introduction

Cockfield Primary School believes that bullying causes considerable suffering to individual pupils and has a damaging effect on the school's atmosphere.

We recognise that bullying is a major concern of us all, including pupils, teachers, support staff, parents and governors. We do not regard bullying as an inevitable part of growing up and work hard to ensure it never happens in our school. The following advice and guidance will be adopted to ensure if bullying does arise in school it will be dealt with swiftly and effectively.

Aims and objectives

The aim of this policy is to prevent and deal with any behaviour deemed to be bullying, and to promote an ethos where bullying is regarded as unacceptable, so that a safe and secure environment is created for everyone to learn and work in.

This will happen through

- Raising awareness of, and defining bullying as well as gaining an understanding as to why some children bully.
- Positive action to prevent bullying through PSHCE and citizenship and threaded throughout other curriculum areas as appropriate.
- A consistent response to any bullying incidents that may occur.
- Support for any members of the school community who are involved in a bullying incident.
- Development of home, school and community partnerships.
- A listening culture.

Roles and responsibilities

The Head Teacher – Has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation. They are also responsible for liaising with the governing body, parents/carers, Local Authority and outside agencies.

The 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 Governors will:

Ensure existence and regular review of Anti-bullying and Race Equality policies
Ensure all members of the school community are aware of the policies
Monitor bullying incidents and evaluate effectiveness of strategies used
Enable young people's views to be heard
Contribute to disciplinary and support work around bullying incidents
Listen to parent/carers' complaints and concerns

The Senior Management team will:

Contribute to the development, implementation and evaluation of the policy
Support classroom teachers in investigating and dealing with incidents
Lead on the development and implementation of preventative strategies
Contribute to and collate records
Contribute to disciplinary procedures
Liaise with outside agencies as appropriate

Teachers and support staff will:

Ensure good relationships, classroom/group management and appropriate delivery of the curriculum
Develop teaching and learning strategies that support good social relationships and the development of social skills
Support the school policy in dealings with parent/carers
Deal with the incidents appropriately, referring where necessary
Complete appropriate records
Implement and support strategies for perpetrators and victims
Liaise appropriately with staff, outside agencies and parties

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. <http://www.antibullyingalliance.org.uk/about-us.aspx>

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.

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 victim might be in danger then intervention is urgently required.

What does bullying look like?

Bullying can include:

- 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.

Why are children and young people bullied?

Specific types of bullying include:

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

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 linked with disabilities 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 language linked with disabilities 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 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, biphobia 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 and may persist outside school, in the local community, on the journey to and from school 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 esafety policy) and encourage good online behaviour.

Bullying can take place between:

- Young people
 - Young people and staff
 - Between staff
 - Individuals or groups

Homophobic bullying and using homophobic language

Homophobic language is terms of abuse used towards lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, people or those thought to be LGBT. It is also 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 have gay friends, family members or their parents/carers are gay.

Dismissing it as banter is not helpful as even if these terms are not referring to a person's sexuality they are using the terms to mean inferior, bad, broken or wrong. We will challenge the use of homophobic language in our school even if it appears to be being used without any homophobic intent. Persistent use of homophobic language or homophobic bullying will be dealt with as with any other form of bullying.

Transphobic Bullying

Transphobic bullying often occurs as a result of others' prejudice being directed at a child or young person because:

- They are transgender
- They are perceived to be transgender
- They do not fit with traditional gender norms (eg. boys with long hair or wearing make-up, girls playing team sports)
- They have transgender friends or family members
- They are perceived as being different

We will challenge the use of any unkind behaviour in our school and teach children to celebrate our differences. Persistent use of transphobic language or bullying will be dealt with as with any other form of bullying.

Reporting and responding to bullying

- Concerns should be reported to any adult in school who will notify the Headteacher/Senior Leadership. This communication may be verbal or written.
- Children are encouraged to: Speak to an adult in school/their parents.
- All staff are aware of the need to take all concerns seriously and to ensure that nurturing relationships encourage information sharing

Procedures

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

The staff are aware of and follow the same procedures:

- Staff members complete an incident log
 - Interviewing all parties
 - Informing parents
 - Implementing appropriate disciplinary sanctions in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy. These are graded according to the seriousness of the incident and 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 - We will keep in touch with the person who reported the situation, which may be parents/carers or other adults. We have a clear complaints procedure for parents who are not satisfied with the schools actions. This is available online or from the school office
 - We will use a range of responses and support appropriate to the situation. These may include solution-focused approaches, restorative approach, circle of

friends, individual work with victim, perpetrator and bystanders or 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

Prejudice related bullying/incidents should be reported to the local authority using the guidelines set out in Durham County Guidelines for schools.

Information stored in school will be used to ensure individuals incidents are followed up. It will also be used to identify trends and inform preventative work in school and development of the policy. This information will be discussed by staff in staff meetings.

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

The policy will be reviewed and updated every two years.

Strategies for preventing bullying

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

Curriculum/Whole-School Strategies

- Anti-Bullying Week annually in November.
- Specific curriculum input on areas of concern such as Cyberbullying and internet safety
- Pupil Voice
- Pupil Task Force
- Peer mentoring schemes and Playground Buddying
- Modelling of positive relationships
- Notes/ postcards home from class teacher regarding good behaviour
- Develop a positive ethos within the school
- Develop positive, respectful relationships between adults and children
- Adults will act as role models
- Deliver high quality teaching
- Promote positive learning environments
- Ensure SMSC/FBV and PSHCE/citizenship permeates every aspect of the curriculum
- Encourage children to become active citizens within school and their community
- Review the anti-bullying policy regularly

- Review the curriculum regularly to ensure that anti-bullying is a continuous theme for development
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of the policy
- Implement a positive behaviour policy encourage positive social interaction at break and lunch times
- Develop a well-designed outdoor environment

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 information distributed by parentmail, newsletters and the school website etc
- Information available on parents’ evenings
- Information sessions e.g. e-safety assemblies

Support for all school staff

- Staff training and development for all staff including those involved in lunchtime and before and after school activities

The Prevent Duty

From 1 July 2015 all schools are subject to a duty under section 26 of the CounterTerrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is known as the Prevent Duty.

A Prevent Duty plan is in place to protect our children from the risk of radicalisation. There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology. School staff should use their judgement in identifying children who may be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately.

By promoting the fundamental British Values, we aim to build pupils’ resilience to radicalisation and enable them to challenge extremist views. It is important to emphasise that the Prevent Duty is not intended to stop pupils debating controversial issues. On the contrary, we aim to provide a safe space in which children, young people and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

Links with other Policies

The policies below all relate to issues surrounding bullying and should be referred to, when necessary, in relation to the Anti-Bullying policy.

Policy	Why
Behaviour Policy	Rewards and sanctions, codes of conduct
Safeguarding Policy	Child protection
Acceptable Use policy	Cyberbullying and e-safety

Equality 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
Prevent Duty Plan	A plan to protect children from the risk of radicalisation.

Useful organisations

Anti-bullying Alliance (ABA) - www.anti-bullying.org

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 – www.mencap.org

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 – www.stonewall.org.uk The lesbian, gay and bisexual charity

Educational Action Challenging Homophobia (EACH) – www.eachaction.org.uk

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

Beatbullying – www.beatbullying.org.uk

Beatbullying is the leading bullying prevention charity in the UK and provides antibullying resources, information, advice and support for young people, parents and professionals affected by bullying.

Childnet International – www.childnet-int.org

Childnet International - The UK's safer internet centre

References Documents and Related Policy/Guidance

National Documents

Safe to Learn- DCSF Guidelines

Embedding anti-bullying work in schools – DCSF-00656-2007

Homophobic bullying – DCSF – 00668-2007

Cyberbullying – DCSF – 00658-2007

www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications

Cyberbullying - supporting school staff – www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications

Cyberbullying - A whole school community issue -

www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications

Race, religion and nationality

- Anne Frank Trust: www.annefrank.org.uk
- Kick it Out: www.kickitout.org □ Report it: www.report-it.org.uk
- Stop Hate: www.stophateuk.org
- Tell Mama: www.tellmamauk.org
- Educate against Hate: www.educateagainsthate.com/
- Show Racism the Red Card: www.srtrc.org/educational

LGBT + Q

- Barnardos LGBT Hub:
www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/lgbtq.htm
- Metro Charity: www.metrocentreonline.org
- EACH: www.eachaction.org.uk
- Proud Trust: www.theproudtrust.org
- Stonewall: www.stonewall.org.uk

Sexual harassment and sexual bullying

- Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAW)
www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk □ A Guide for Schools:
www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/resources/71/EVAWCoalition-Schools-Guide.pdf
- Disrespect No Body: www.gov.uk/government/publications/disrespectnobody-campaign-posters
- Anti-bullying Alliance: advice for school staff and professionals about developing effective anti-bullying practice in relation to sexual bullying:
www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/sexualand-gender-related

Note: Additional links can be found in ‘Preventing and Tackling Bullying’ (July 2017) www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying

