



THE DISTRICT

CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Anti-bullying Policy

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| Chair of Governors | Mr F Maguire |
| Headteacher | Mrs L Shelford |
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The caring path to achievement, reflecting the values of Christ.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. Apart from me you are nothing.” John 15:5.

Just as the branches need the vine to grow and bear good fruits, so we need each other. Within the District family, each person is valued and loved, reaching out throughout our school, homes, families and the wider community for a stronger future. It is the right of every member of our school to be unique and their authentic selves. So, as a Christian school, we celebrate the individual and challenge those who discriminate.

This policy is based on DfE guidance “Preventing and Tracking Bullying” July 2017 and supporting documents. It also considers the DfE statutory guidance “Keeping Children Safe in Education” 2023.

At The District CE we strongly believe that all bullying is unacceptable, regardless of how it is delivered or what excuses are given to justify it. We aim, as a school, to provide a safe and secure environment where all can learn without anxiety. Stringent measures are in place to reduce the likelihood of bullying.

Victims of bullying will be treated in a supportive manner and their case heard in an atmosphere of positive concern.

The purpose of this document is to set out a definition for bullying and to explain the procedure to be followed for dealing with bullying.

Aims and Objectives

- To give a clear definition of bullying.
- To raise awareness of bullying by ensuring that all governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- To bring about conditions in which bullying is less likely to happen in the future by ensuring that all governors, teaching staff and non-teaching staff know what the policy is on bullying, and to follow it when bullying is reported.
- To ensure a whole school approach to bullying by ensuring that all pupils and parents know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.

Links with other policies

This policy links with:

- Emotional wellbeing policy
- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Online safety policy
- Curriculum policies such as RSE/RSHE, PSHE, citizenship and computing

Links with legislation

There are several pieces of legislation which set out measures and actions for schools in response to bullying, as well as criminal and civil law. These may include (but are not limited to):

- The Education and Inspection Act 2006, 2011
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Children Act 1989
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- The Malicious Communications Act 1988

- Public Order Act 1986

What is Bullying?

Bullying can be defined as ‘*behaviour by an individual or a group, repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally*’. DfE ‘Preventing and Tackling Bullying’.

Bullying is, therefore:

- Deliberately hurtful
- Repeated, often over a period of time
- Difficult to defend against

Bullying can include:

| Type of bullying | Definition |
|---|--|
| Emotional | Being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting |
| Physical | Hitting, kicking, pushing, taking another’s belongings, any use of violence |
| Prejudice-based and discriminatory, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial • Faith-based • Gendered (sexist) • Homophobic/biphobic • Transphobic • Disability-based | Taunts, gestures, graffiti or physical abuse focused on a particular characteristic (e.g. gender, race, sexuality) |
| Sexual | Explicit sexual remarks, sexual gestures, unwanted physical attention, or inappropriate touching |
| Direct or indirect verbal | Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing |
| Cyber-bullying | Bullying that takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps or gaming sites |

It is important to remember that **not all aggressive behaviour is bullying**. Some children, especially very young children, without intention or awareness that it causes distress, may exhibit behaviour which appears to be bullying. **This type of behaviour is taken seriously by the school and will be addressed through the school’s emotional wellbeing policy.** Adults in school and parents need to be clear about the distinction between bullying and isolated acts of aggression.

It should be stated that usually victims of bullying become so through no fault of their own.

Signs and Symptoms of Bullying

A child may indicate through signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- Is frightened of walking to and from school.
- Changes their usual routine.
- Is unwilling to go to school.
- Begins truanting.
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious, or lacking in confidence.
- Threatens to run away.
- Cries themselves to sleep at night.
- Feels ill in the morning.
- Begins to do poorly in school work.
- Comes home with clothes torn or books damaged.
- Has possessions go ‘missing’.
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable.
- Is bullying other children or siblings.
- Is frightened to say what is wrong.

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

Bullying is recognised at The District CE Primary School as being a form of peer-on-peer abuse; children can abuse other children.

- Abuse is abuse and it should never be tolerated or passed off as “banter”, “just having a laugh” or “part of growing up”.
- We recognise that even if there are no reports of bullying, it does not mean it is not happening and it may be the case that it is just not being reported.
- All victims will be taken seriously and offered appropriate support, regardless of where the abuse takes place.

The District CE recognises that bullying can take place between a variety of individuals for example:

- Children bullying children.
- Staff bullying children.
- Staff bullying staff.
- Parents bullying staff.
- Staff bullying parents.

Why is it important to respond to bullying?

- Bullying hurts.
- No one deserves to be a victim of bullying.
- Everybody has the right to be treated with respect.
- Those who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

At The District CE, we understand that we have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

School Ethos

The District CE Primary School recognises that all forms of bullying, especially if left unaddressed, can have a devastating effect on individuals; it can create a barrier to learning and have serious consequences for mental wellbeing. By effectively preventing and tackling bullying, our school can help create a safe and disciplined environment where pupils are able to learn and fulfil their potential.

Our school community:

- Understands the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviour between peers.
- Monitors and reviews our anti-bullying policy and practice on a regular basis.
- Supports staff to promote positive relationships to help prevent bullying.
- Recognises that some members of our community are more vulnerable to bullying and its impact than others. This includes children with SEND needs. Being aware of this helps us to develop effective strategies to prevent bullying from happening and provide appropriate support, if required.
- Intervenes by identifying and tackling bullying behaviour appropriately and promptly.
- Ensures our pupils are aware that bullying concerns will be dealt with sensitively and effectively; that everyone should feel safe to learn and abide by the anti-bullying policy.
- Requires all members of the community to work with the school to uphold the anti-bullying policy.
- Recognises the potential impact of bullying on the wider family of those affected so will work in partnership with parents/ carers regarding all reported bullying concerns and will seek to keep them informed.
- Deals promptly with grievances regarding the school responses to bullying in line with our complaints policy.
- Seek to learn from good anti-bullying practice elsewhere.
- Utilises support from the LA and other relevant organisations when appropriate.

Responding to Bullying Concerns

The following steps will be taken when dealing with any incidents of bullying reported to the school:

- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached or witnessed the concern.
- The school will provide appropriate support for the person being bullied – making sure they are not at risk of immediate harm and will involve them in any decision-making, as appropriate.
- The DSL will be informed of all bullying concerns, especially where there may be safeguarding issues.
- The headteacher, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or another appropriate member of leadership staff will interview all parties involved.
- A clear and precise account of bullying incidents will be recorded by the school in accordance with existing procedures. This will include recording appropriate details regarding decisions and action taken.
- The school will speak with and inform other staff members, where appropriate.
- The school will ensure parents/carers are kept informed about the concern and action taken, as appropriate and in line with child protection and confidentiality policies.
- Appropriate sanctions and support, for example as identified within the school behaviour policy and child protection policy, will be implemented in consultation with all parties concerned.
- If necessary, other agencies may be consulted or involved, for example the police if a criminal offence has been committed or Early Help if a child is felt to be at risk of significant harm.
- Where the bullying of or by pupils takes place off school site or outside of normal school hours (including cyberbullying), the school will ensure that the concern is fully investigated and responded to in line with this policy and the school behaviour policy. If required, the DSL will collaborate with DSLs at other settings.

Cyberbullying

When responding to cyberbullying concerns, the school will:

- Act as soon as an incident has been reported or identified.

- Provide appropriate support for the person who has been cyberbullied, and work with the person who has carried out the bullying to ensure that it does not happen again.
- Encourage the person being bullied to keep any evidence (screenshots) of the bullying activity to assist any investigation.
- Take all available steps where possible to identify the person responsible. This may include:
 - looking at use of the school systems
 - identifying and interviewing possible witnesses
 - Contacting the service provider and the police, if necessary.
- Work with the individuals and online service providers to prevent the incident from spreading and assist in removing offensive or upsetting material from circulation. This may include:
 - Support reports to a service provider to remove content if those involved are unable to be identified or if those involved refuse to or are unable to delete content.
 - Confiscating and searching pupils' electronic devices, such as mobile phones, in accordance with the law. (We will access the DfE 'Searching, screening and confiscation at school' and Childnet cyberbullying guidance to ensure that the school's powers are used proportionately and lawfully).
 - Requesting the deletion of locally-held content and content posted online if they contravene school behavioural policies.
- Where an individual can be identified, the school will ensure that appropriate sanctions are implemented to change the attitude and behaviour of the bully, as well as ensuring access to any additional help or support they may need.
- Inform the police if a criminal offence has been committed.
- Provide information to staff and pupils regarding steps they can take to protect themselves online. This may include:
 - advising those targeted not to retaliate or reply.
 - providing advice on blocking or removing people from contact lists.
 - helping those involved to consider and manage any private information they may have in the public domain

How will incidents be recorded?

- Recorded on CPOMS by class teacher or adult who may have witnessed an incident or whom the child has disclosed an incident to.
- Recorded on CPOMS if a parent has raised a concern in relation to their child/children.
- Records of follow up action and notes from any meetings to be recorded on CPOMS.

Preventing Bullying

Environment

The whole school community will:

- Create and support an inclusive environment which promotes a culture of mutual respect, consideration and care for others, which will be upheld by all.
- Recognise that bullying can be perpetrated or experienced by any member of the community, including adults and children (peer on peer abuse).
- Recognise the potential for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to be disproportionately impacted by bullying and will implement additional pastoral support as required.
- Recognise that bullying may be affected and influenced by gender, age, ability and culture of those involved.

- Openly discuss differences between people that could motivate bullying, such as: children with different family situations, such as looked after children or those with caring responsibilities, religion, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexuality or appearance related difference.
- Challenge practice and language (including 'banter') which does not uphold the school values of tolerance, non-discrimination and respect towards others.
- Be encouraged to use technology, especially mobile phones and social media, positively and responsibly.
- Work with staff, the wider community and outside agencies to prevent and tackle concerns including all forms of prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying.
- Actively create "safe spaces" for vulnerable children and young people.
- Celebrate success and achievements to promote and build a positive school ethos.

Alongside this, we encourage co-operative behaviour through:

- Whole school Christian vision and values
- Targeted interventions using resources such as ELSA, SUMO, etc.
- We seek children's opinions through pupil voice, school council, head pupils, etc.
- Outdoor learning activities
- Play leaders
- STARS
- Play equipment on the playgrounds
- Buddies
- Designated non-teaching staff to co-ordinate games sessions at play times and lunch times for individual children as and when the need arises.
- Pastoral team

Policy and Support

The whole school community will:

- Provide a range of approaches for pupils, staff and parents/carers to access support and report concerns.
- Regularly update and evaluate our practice to consider the developments of technology and provide up-to-date advice and education to all members of the community regarding positive online behaviour.
- Take appropriate, proportionate and reasonable action, in line with existing school policies, for any bullying brought to the schools' attention, which involves or affects pupils, even when they are not on school premises; for example, when online, in the community, etc.
- Implement appropriate disciplinary sanctions; the consequences of bullying will reflect the seriousness of the incident, so that others see that bullying is unacceptable.
- Use a variety of techniques to resolve the issues between those who bully, and those who have been bullied.

Education and Training

The school community will:

- Train all staff, including teaching staff, support staff (e.g. administration staff, lunchtime support staff and site support staff) and pastoral staff, to identify all forms of bullying and take appropriate action, following the school's policy and procedures, including recording and reporting incidents.
- Consider a range of opportunities and approaches for addressing bullying throughout the curriculum and other activities, such as: through displays, assemblies, peer support, the school/student council, etc.
- Collaborate with other local educational settings as appropriate, and during key times of the year, for example during transition.
- Ensure anti-bullying has a high profile throughout the year, reinforced through key opportunities such as anti-bullying week.

- Provide systematic opportunities to develop pupils' social and emotional skills, including building self-esteem.

Monitoring and Evaluating the Policy

The Senior Leadership Team and Pastoral Team will review behaviour logs and CPOMS reports daily to look for recurring incidents and see if these can be related to particular school routines, times or areas of the school building.

The Local Governing Body will be made aware of any disciplinary action taken.

The role of governors

- The local governing body supports the Headteacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. The governing body will not condone any bullying at all in our school, and any incidents of bullying that do occur will be taken very seriously, and dealt with appropriately.
- The local governing body monitors incidents of bullying that do occur, and reviews the effectiveness of this policy regularly. The governors require the Headteacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying, and to report to the governors on request about the effectiveness of school anti-bullying strategies.
- A parent who is dissatisfied with the way the school has dealt with a bullying incident should follow the school complaints procedure. The governing body responds within ten days to any request from a parent to investigate incidents of bullying. In all cases, the governing body notifies the Headteacher, and asks them to conduct an investigation into the case, and to report back to a representative of the local governing body.

Useful Links and Supporting Organisations

The following links may provide additional support to children, staff or families.

- Anti-Bullying Alliance: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
- Childline: www.childline.org.uk
- Family Lives: www.familylives.org.uk
- Kidscape: www.kidscape.org.uk
- MindEd: www.minded.org.uk
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk
- PSHE Association: www.pshe-association.org.uk
- Restorative Justice Council: www.restorativejustice.org.uk
- The Diana Award: www.diana-award.org.uk
- Victim Support: www.victimsupport.org.uk
- Young Minds: www.youngminds.org.uk
- Young Carers: www.youngcarers.net

Cyberbullying

- Childnet: www.childnet.com
- Internet Watch Foundation: www.iwf.org.uk
- Report Harmful Content: <https://reportharmfulcontent.com/>
- UK Safer Internet Centre: www.saferinternet.org.uk
- The UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS): www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-council-for-internet-safety
- DfE 'Cyberbullying: advice for headteachers and school staff': www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying

- DfE ‘Advice for parents and carers on cyberbullying’: www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying

SEND

- Changing Faces: www.changingfaces.org.uk
- Mencap: www.mencap.org.uk
- Anti-Bullying Alliance Cyberbullying and children and young people with SEN and disabilities: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/at-risk-groups/sen-disability
- DfE: SEND code of practice: www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25

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

LGBTQ+

- Barnardo’s LGBTQ 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
- Schools Out: www.schools-out.org.uk
- Stonewall: www.stonewall.org.uk

Sexual Harassment and Sexual Bullying

- NSPCC ‘Report Abuse in Education’ Helpline: 0800 136 663 or help@nspcc.org.uk
- Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAW): www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk
- Disrespect No Body: www.gov.uk/government/publications/disrespect-nobody-campaign-posters
- Anti-bullying Alliance: Preventing and responding to Sexual Bullying: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/sexual-and-sexist-bullying
- Anti-bullying Alliance: advice for school staff and professionals about developing effective anti-bullying practice in relation to sexual bullying: <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/sexual-and-sexist-bullying/investigating-and-responding-sexual>
- Childnet Project DeShame (Online Sexual Harassment and Bullying): www.childnet.com/our-projects/project-deshame