



Pinewood Infant School

&

Foundation Unit

Anti-Bullying Policy

(To be read alongside the behaviour policy)

Spring 2025

Rachel Otter

Introduction

This document provides a framework for the creation of a happy, secure and orderly environment in which the children can learn and develop as caring and responsible people. It is written for the benefit of all members of the school community and is based on cooperative core principles and values shown above. It has been devised to comply with the specifications for the All Together United against Bullying Project 2019-2020 (Anti-bullying Alliance www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)

As a consequence of our values, we aim to provide a safe, caring and friendly environment for learning for all our pupils to allow them to improve their life chances and help them maximise their potential. We would expect pupils to act safely and feel safe in school, including that they understand the issues relating to all forms of bullying and that they feel confident to seek support from school should they feel that they or others are unsafe. We would also want parents/carers to feel confident that their children are safe and cared for in school and that incidents when they do arise, are dealt with promptly and well.

The school is aware of its legal obligations including the Equalities Act 2010. We are aware of our role within the local community supporting parents/carers and working with other agencies outside the school where appropriate.

Policy Development

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

- Members of staff- through regular agenda items at staff meetings, consultation documents, surveys
- Governors – discussions at governor meetings, training
- Parents/carers – questionnaires
- Children and young people – pupils contribute to the development of the policy through the school councils, circle time discussions, our PSHE curriculum, assemblies etc.

Roles and Responsibilities

The head teacher has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation and liaising with the governing body, parents/carers, LA and outside agencies. The head teacher is also the anti-bullying coordinator who will have general responsibility for handling the implementation of this policy.

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 co-ordinating training and support for staff and parents/carers where appropriate

- Co-ordinating strategies for preventing bullying behaviour

The nominated Governor with the responsibility for Anti- bullying behaviour is Rachel Makey.

- We endeavour to teach children to deal with conflict in a positive way and thereby build confidence empathy and understanding in our children.
- We teach our children what bullying is, how to identify it and to speak up to a trusted adult about if it occurs.

Definition of Bullying

There is no legal definition of bullying, however we define bullying as the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person (either physically or emotionally) or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. Cyberbullying can happen via mobile phones and online through social networks and online games for example. It can happen face-to-face or through cyberspace.

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

Bullying is any form of unacceptable treatment, or discrimination or behaviour intended to hurt or harm the reputation of another. It is sometimes described as 'abuse of power' but it is a desire in the bully to control or harm another person. The reasons for this desire can be complex.

There are many reasons why children bully other children. They may be struggling with personal problems at home. This behaviour may be the only way they know how to deal with a difficult situation in their personal life, such as parents divorcing, death of a relative, abuse or humiliation of some sort in their life. This does not mean that bullying behaviour is OK. Sometimes, a bully will pick on someone because they are jealous or because they think that they will be seen as bigger and tougher' and it boosts their sad ego. For the bully, behaving in this manner is seen as a way to win friends, but this is a myth. All forms of bullying and anti-social behaviour is unacceptable. (National Bullying helpline)

All bullying is unacceptable and should not be tolerated. It can affect anyone and we are all potential targets - whether we are an adult or a child, or whether the bullying is at school, in the community, at work, online or at home. Most people understand bullying as behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that is intended to hurt another individual or group either physically or emotionally.

Bullying can take place between:

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

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 cyber-bullying. If the victim might be in danger, then intervention is urgently required

What does bullying look like?

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

- Physical assault
- Taking or damaging belongings
- Name calling
- Making threats
- Taunting and teasing
- Mocking
- Making offensive comments
- Cyberbullying (inappropriate text messaging and emailing; 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
- Repeatedly 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'.

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
- Social class
- Asylum seeker/refugee status

These are called 'protected characteristics'.

As part of the requirement of 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 disablist 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
- Bullying of young children who appear anxious, have low self-esteem, lack assertiveness and are shy or introverted

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 disablist 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/carers 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, 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. We do not tolerate any negative name calling at Pinewood and work hard to ensure children know how to be kind and talk nicely to each other.

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

Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place online. Unlike bullying offline, online bullying can follow the child wherever they go, via social networks, gaming and mobile phone.

Cyberbullying is bullying and harassment using technology. This includes trolling, mobbing, stalking, grooming or any form of abuse online. Cyberbullying is most certainly on the increase - more and more cases are being reported to our helpline by children and by extremely worried parents.

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.

Cyberbullying is bullying online and any form of anti-social behaviour over the internet or via a mobile device. It is an attack or abuse, using technology, which is intended to cause another person harm, distress or personal loss.

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:

- Spreading malicious and abusive rumours and gossiping
- Texting or emailing intimidating or threatening remarks
- Harassing you repeatedly
- General bullying or stalking
- Using gaming sites to attack or bully you
- Hacking into someone's accounts/sites
- Posting prejudice/hate messages
- Impersonating someone online
- Public posting of images
- Exclusion

We educate our children to be kind and caring citizens and how bullying can be very upsetting for others. We educate our children in seeing the view of others. We also ensure that our children are taught safe ways to use the internet (see our Online Safety policy) and encourage good online behaviour.

Signs of bullying

No single sign will indicate for certain that a child being bullied, but we teachers and parents are informed of the following potential signs noted by the NSPCC:

- belongings getting 'lost' or damaged
- physical injuries, such as unexplained bruises
- being afraid to go to school, being mysteriously 'ill' each morning, or skipping school
- not doing as well at school
- asking for, or stealing, money (to give to whoever's bullying them)

- being nervous, losing confidence, or becoming distressed and withdrawn
- problems with eating or sleeping
- bullying others.

Effects of bullying

The effects of bullying can last into adulthood. At its worst, bullying has driven children and young people to self-harm and even suicide. As noted by the NSPCC, children who are bullied:

- may develop mental health problems like depression and anxiety
- have fewer friendships
- aren't accepted by their peers
- are wary and suspicious of others
- have problems adjusting to school, and don't do as well.

All children who are affected by bullying can suffer harm – whether they are bullied, they bully others or they witness bullying.

Reporting and responding to bullying

Our school has clear and well publicised systems to report bullying for the whole school community including staff, parents/carers, children and young people. This includes those who are the victims of bullying or have witnessed bullying behaviour (bystanders).

In the event of a bullying incident this should be reported to Rachel Otter, Head Teacher or Dave Armstrong Jones (Business Manager). The head teacher will then follow the stages identified in the procedures in order to get an accurate account of the incident. Information will be recorded on CPOMS. This will be reported to governors termly.

School staff will deal with bullying in different ways, depending on how serious the bullying is. We might deal with it in school, for example by disciplining bullies, or we might need to report it to the police or make a MASH referral. All reported incidents will be taken seriously and investigated, involving all parties. Any discipline will take account of special educational needs or disabilities that the pupils involved may have. The staff are aware of and follow the same procedures. The school will take the following steps:

- Interview all parties
- Risk assess the situation
- Document the process
- Inform all parents/carers
- Implement appropriate disciplinary sanctions in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy. These will be graded according to the seriousness of the incident and will send out a message that bullying is unacceptable at Pinewood

- Follow up, in particular keeping in touch with the person who reported the situation, parents/carers
- Issuing a complaints policy to parents/carer who are not satisfied with the school's actions
- Liaising with the wider community if the bullying is taking place off the school premises i.e. in the case of cyber-bullying or hate crime.

Recording bullying and evaluating the policy

Bullying incidents will be recorded, usually by the staff member who deals with the incident, and this will be recorded on CPOMs under the behaviour tab. This information will be reported to governors on a termly basis.

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).

These will be sent in a secure electronic format, with a password sent in a separate email, to ecas@nottsc.gov.uk.

It is no longer necessary however, to submit a termly nil return to the team or complete a specific form. Schools are advised that a simple email to ecas@nottsc.gov.uk stating at the end of the academic year that no incidents have been reported to the school, will now suffice.

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 regular staff meetings as needed. This information will be presented to the governors as part of the annual report.

Strategies for preventing bullying

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

1. An ethos of celebrating good behaviour

- PSHE lessons and cross curriculum themes

2. specific curriculum input on areas of concern such as internet safety

- School council
- Peer mentoring
- Playground buddying

3. Reactive programmes for vulnerable groups such as:

- Nurture groups
- Small group work

4. Specific initiatives for identified groups such as young people whose first language is not English, Army children, LACLA

5. Support for parents/carers

- Parent/carer information events/information

6. Support for all school staff

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

HATE CRIME

There is no legal definition of a hate crime. However, the police and the CPS (Crown Prosecution Service) have an agreed definition of hate crime as:

"Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race; religion or perceived religion; sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation; disability or perceived disability and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender."

There is a distinction between a hate crime and a hate incident.

"A hate incident is any incident which the victim, or anyone else, thinks is based on someone's prejudice towards them because of their race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or because they are transgender."

However, a hate incident does not necessarily break the law.

Information on how to report a hate crime can be found on the school website and at

[/www.report-it.org.uk/home](http://www.report-it.org.uk/home)

Useful organisations Antibullying 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, bisexual and transgender 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.
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	www.theredcard.org.uk	

National Bullying Helpline

<https://www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk>

Bullying - Help and advice for adults and children affected by **bullying** at work, **bullying** at school or **cyberbullying** with information to help **stop bullying**.

- www.kidsmart.org.uk
- www.thinkuknow.org.uk
- www.digizen.org
- www.chatdanger.com
- www.childnet-int.org
- www.kidscape.org.uk
- www.childline.org.uk
- www.beatbullying.org

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(A group from schools across Nottinghamshire)

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