

Sharp Lane Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy



Agreed by Governing Board	January 2025
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Responsible for this policy	Louis Parish

Anti-Bullying Policy

All pupils and young people are entitled to go about their daily lives without fear of threatening behaviour, assault or harassment. The power of bullying on a young person's well-being should never be underestimated. It can cause high levels of distress, which has consequences for an individual's well-being, behaviour, academic and social development throughout their life.

At Sharp Lane Primary School, all stakeholders are committed to providing a caring and safe environment in which all pupils feel confident and supported to be themselves. We ensure that pupils are empowered and learn in a secure and relaxed environment free from oppression.

We believe that all types of bullying are unacceptable and it will not be tolerated. All pupils should understand what bullying is, the forms that it takes and know that it is important that they bring it to our attention quickly in order to ensure prompt and effective action.

Specific Aims

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.

What is bullying?

Whilst bullying has no legal definition, at Sharp Lane we believe bullying to be unwanted, intimidating, physical or emotionally distressing behaviour that involves a perceived power imbalance. Bullying is repetitive in nature and targeted at one individual by another. It results in pain and distress to the victim, emotionally and/or physically. Isolated incidents of hurtful behaviour, teasing or arguments can be distressing for individuals but these are not examples of bullying.

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 defines bullying as 'child-on-child abuse'. This includes, cyberbullying, prejudice-based, and discriminatory bullying.

BULLYING IS WHEN SOMEONE HURTS YOU...



SEVERAL TIMES ON PURPOSE

What forms can bullying take?

- **Indirect** – being unfriendly, spreading rumours, influencing negativity, excluding, or tormenting (e.g., hiding belongings).
- **Physical** – pushing, kicking, hitting, punching, slapping, or any other form of violence.
- **Verbal** – name-calling, teasing, threats, verbal aggression, making fun of, insulting.
- **Cyber** – all areas of internet misuse, such as nasty and/or threatening emails or texts, misuse of blogs, social media, gaming websites, internet chat rooms, and instant messaging.

This is not an exhaustive list and it should be noted that school has a zero-tolerance stance on any form of bullying.

Prejudice and discriminatory-based bullying

Prejudice and discriminatory-based bullying is when bullying behaviour is motivated by prejudice based on an individual's actual or perceived identity. It can be based on characteristics unique to a child or young person's identity or circumstance and is unlawful.

To address incidents where behaviour is driven by prejudice and/or discriminatory intent, Sharp Lane staff may take steps to report this to the local authority, such as completing a 'StopHate referral form'.

What signs and indicators may suggest child is being bullied?

Whilst every child is unique, and their response to bullying may differ, there are some common behavioural changes that can indicate a child is being bullied at school. These include:

- 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
- A change in how they are doing at school, including a dip in grades or not handing homework in
- Asking for, or stealing, money (to give to whoever is bullying them)
- A change in behaviour, including being nervous, losing confidence, or becoming distressed and/or withdrawn
- A change in eating or sleeping habits
- Bullying others.

These signs and indicators are not an exhaustive list and could indicate other issues at school or home.

Possible impact of bullying

Bullying is serious as it can have long term effects on the quality of life of the victim. It may undermine a victim's confidence and self-esteem and can be detrimental to their sense of safety and security. Bullying can change the way a person views the world, and impact their ability to access the same experiences as others. Bullying can affect children's attendance and attainment at school and can cause long term psychological damage. Bullying can be linked to depression, anxiety, self-harm, and suicide.

How incidents are dealt with

- If bullying is reported or suspected, this will be investigated by the member of staff who has been approached and/or the class teacher.
- If the incident is not perceived as bullying, all children involved will be educated about this and the school's behaviour policy will be implemented if necessary.
- If it is found that the incident appears to be of a bullying nature, the suspect will be educated on this and given a final warning and an opportunity to reflect and change the behaviour. The school's behaviour policy will be implemented. The victim of this incident will be supported to enable their voices to be captured and to ensure they are happy with the outcomes.
- If bullying behaviour continues, strategies will be considered to manage the risk of this repeating such as alternative provision for unstructured times, and implementing the school's behaviour policy. This may be detailed within a formal plan and shared with parents. All children involved will be supported to understand the effects of bullying. Children's voices will be captured and any emotional needs will be supported.
- The parents of both children will be informed if necessary, however it may not always be necessary to provide specific details relating to children with anyone other than their parents.

How do we promote an anti-bullying culture at Sharp Lane?

Within the curriculum, school raised awareness of bullying through the PSHE curriculum and assemblies. In addition to this, we strive to raise awareness and the prevention of bullying through:

- 'Keeping Safe' information displayed around school
- Class promises encompassing general behaviour and children's behaviour towards others
- Worry boxes in all classrooms and around school
- Whole school behaviour policy
- Reading stories about bullying as part of whole class reading and/or assemblies
- Having regular discussions in response and proactively about bullying, it's effects, why it occurs and how to tackle it
- Capturing child voice regularly
- Taking part in anti-bullying week
- School council, PSHE lessons, and circle time activities
- Seeking advice and support from external agencies.

What role do children play in our anti-bullying approach?

The pupils of Sharp Lane Primary play an important role in our approach to tackling bullying. Through education and discussion, pupils are able to identify inappropriate behaviour and bullying and distinguish clearly between the two.

They know that telling an adult when they witness or experience these types of behaviour is the first step to solving any problem.

When given the opportunity to discuss their opinions about behaviour and bullying, pupils are supported so that they can be honest about their views. From this, staff can work with children to shape our approach moving forward.

The role of adults and other staff in school

All teachers and support staff should make it their mission to equip themselves with skills and awareness to tackle bullying at school. On an annual basis the staff will take part in Anti-Bullying week but staff at Sharp Lane ensure that behaviour for learning and Anti-Bullying attitudes are at the forefront of their thinking throughout the school year.

When incidents of bullying occur, staff and adults at Sharp Lane Primary have a responsibility to support both the victim and the perpetrator. Adults fully support the child being bullied; restoring confidence, happiness and other aspects of their health. Importantly, they will work with the 'bully' to explore reasons for their actions and demonstrate why their actions are unacceptable. These discussions will be done in a supportive and nurturing manner and may include the Pastoral Team and Parents/Carers.

Bullying off the school premises

Sharp Lane Primary School is not directly responsible for bullying or any behaviour off the school premises; however, if both the victim and the bully are from the school, action may be taken to support the issues and may include informing parents.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Social Media Policy