

Lowerhouses CE Primary School



Anti-Bullying Policy

*Working and achieving together to enrich lives and nurture
bright futures*

APPROVED – October 2024

REVIEW – October 2027

PERSON RESPONSIBLE – HEADTEACHER

Anti-Bullying Policy

The school has a statutory responsibility to deal with bullying according to various acts and documentation. Therefore, this policy is written in line with

- Education Act 2002
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- DCSF "Safe to Learn"

Aims:

The ethos at our school is encompassed in our Circle of God's Care. It is based on truthfulness, responsibility and forgiveness. Everyone is expected to exercise self-discipline, take responsibility for their actions and show care and concern for people, the school and its contents.

We are committed to providing a caring, inclusive, friendly and safe environment for all. This includes within school and outside of school when related to issues within school. The school aims to provide an environment which enables everyone to disclose any incidents of bullying, which in turn are dealt with promptly and effectively. Bullying is always unacceptable.

What Is Bullying? (based on DCSF's guidance)

Bullying is intentional, aiming to hurt somebody on purpose, causing physical or emotional harm.

Bullying is repetitive

Bullying is where one person acts as if they have more power than another and hurts that person

Bullying can be

- Pupil on pupil
- Pupil on staff
- Staff/ adult on pupil

Different forms of Bullying

Bullying can be:

Direct

- Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing

Working and achieving together to enrich lives and nurture bright futures

APPROVED – October 2024

REVIEW – October 2027

PERSON RESPONSIBLE – HEADTEACHER

- Non – verbal - gestures, graffiti
- Emotional - being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)

Indirect

- Cyber - All areas of internet ,such as email & internet chat room misuse, Mobile threats by text messaging & calls
Misuse of associated technology , i.e. camera & video facilities inappropriate text messaging and electronic messaging (including through web-sites, Social Networking sites and Instant Messenger); sending offensive or degrading images by phone or via the internet;

Specific forms of bullying:

- Racial - Racist taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual - unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Bullying related to special educational needs.
- Bullying related to appearance or health conditions.
- Bullying of young carers or looked after children or otherwise related to home circumstances.
- Cyber bullying.

It could focus on:

- Health
- Appearance
- Family or Home Circumstances e.g. looked after, young carers
- Social Class
- Race, Religion or Culture
- Disability/ SEN
- Gender – sexist, sexual and transgender.
- Sexual orientation

The DCSF have given specific guidance on the last four and this will be adhered to in the event of a situation arising.

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Those who bully need to be taught appropriate ways of behaving towards others.

Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors and teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying and follow it when bullying is reported.

Working and achieving together to enrich lives and nurture bright futures

APPROVED – October 2024
REVIEW – October 2027
PERSON RESPONSIBLE – HEADTEACHER

- 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.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.
- The school closely follows issues raised in ECM and related policies for behaviour, equality and Child Protection.
- The school is aware that staff and governors can also be victims of bullying and all incidents will be taken seriously and dealt with as stated in this policy.

Signs and Symptoms

Someone may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if someone:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- doesn't want to go on the school / public bus
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- begins to truant
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or "go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has dinner or other monies continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- comes home starving (money / lunch has been stolen)
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received

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

Adults should be aware of signs that other adults in school may be displaying behaviours which show that they are being bullied

Working and achieving together to enrich lives and nurture bright futures

APPROVED – October 2024
REVIEW – October 2027
PERSON RESPONSIBLE – HEADTEACHER

As a school we will endeavour to distribute this type of information to all related parties through leaflets, our prospectus, information evenings, Seal programmes etc.

Procedures

The procedure for the school behaviour policy should be followed for all incidents of bullying.

All reports of bullying will be addressed and the priority will be to support those being bullied and to stop the bullying.

It is important to assess the seriousness of the bullying and to determine the appropriate action that should be taken.

We will work to help and support those responsible for the bullying to understand the impact of bullying and to change their behaviour.

Bullying Incidents will be recorded according to the Behaviour Policy.

It is the responsibility of Parents and carers to share their concerns/ work with and support the school. Their feedback is also important. All complaints should be addressed to the Headteacher or member of the Senior Leadership Team should the Head not be available.

1. Report bullying incidents to staff
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff according to the Behaviour Policy.
3. Parents should be informed in cases of serious bullying and will be asked to come into a meeting to discuss the problem and a home school agreement made.
4. In the case of 'low level' bullying, after assessment of each individual situation it may be considered that the school will deal with it in the first instance, without informing parents.
5. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted
6. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated, and the bullying stopped quickly.
7. Plans will be formulated to support the perpetrators to modify their behaviour. This may involve outside agencies if deemed necessary by the school.
8. All incidents of cyber bullying will be recorded and retained on the log (see e-safety policy)
9. All other incidents will be record in the School's Bullying and Prejudice Related Incident Log (HT office – 'Valuing all God's children') for record keeping.

Working and achieving together to enrich lives and nurture bright futures

APPROVED – October 2024
REVIEW – October 2027
PERSON RESPONSIBLE – HEADTEACHER

Responsibilities of different sections of the School Community

Bullying behaviour should never be ignored and it is the responsibility for all members of the school community to report incidents of bullying and concerns they may have that someone is being bullied

Outcomes

- 1) The bully (bullies) will be expected to take responsibility for their actions
- 2) In serious cases, exclusion will be considered
- 3) If possible, the pupils will be reconciled through restorative justice
- 4) After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

Strategies for Prevention

School works to promote a common understanding of what constitutes bullying – and what doesn't.

We will use

- Jigsaw materials, Healthy Schools strategies, PSHE assemblies, Special assemblies, events and anti bullying week
- Posters to give out messages
- Publicity of special events such as those held by Childline
- Training for all staff
- Curriculum

Staff involved in break and lunchtime supervision will be aware of the policy and be vigilant at all times.

The policy will be monitored, reviewed and evaluated in line with any new Guidelines.

*Working and achieving together to enrich lives and nurture
bright futures*

APPROVED – October 2024
REVIEW – October 2027
PERSON RESPONSIBLE – HEADTEACHER