

MOONS MOAT FIRST SCHOOL ANTI-BULLYING POLICY 2025 - 2026

IF WE KNOW ABOUT IT, WE WILL DEAL WITH IT!

Moons Moat First School & Nursery is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.'

Bullying of any kind will not be tolerated in our school. Bullying makes pupils unhappy and unable to concentrate fully on their work. All incidents will be taken seriously and investigated thoroughly.

All members of staff know that bullying takes place in all schools and we work to create a supportive climate in which any incidents can be reported and dealt with quickly and effectively.

DEFINITION

Bullying is deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated often, over a period of time.

Bullying can be

- Physical – hitting, kicking, taking belongings
- Verbal – name calling, insulting, racist remarks
- Indirect – spreading nasty stories about someone, excluding someone from social groups
- Cyber - threatening behaviour (the above) by means of technology
- Prejudice based or discriminatory

CYBER-BULLYING

Cyberbullying is the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), particularly mobile phones and the internet, deliberately to upset someone else. Cyberbullying may consist of threats, harassment, embarrassment, humiliation, defamation or impersonation. Cyberbullying may take the form of general insults, or prejudice-based bullying, for example homophobic, sexist, racist or other forms of discrimination.

Parents and children sign an Acceptable Use Policy Agreement when they enter school and when they enter Key Stage Two. Within the AUPAs parents and pupils agree to abide by these statements, *"...I will not interfere with the way others use their technology; I will be polite and responsible when I communicate with others; I will not take or share images of anyone without their permission."* Failure to comply will result in pupils being forbidden from using communication technology and further consequences and sanctions (see '**Procedures**' below).

(Please refer to *Cyberbullying Policy*)

PREVENTION

We aim to provide an environment where children can grow in confidence and self-esteem.

Issues of behaviour and bullying are discussed openly in the classroom, in assembly, in Personal, Health and Social Education, in role play and story, Circle Time, through the curriculum and informally.

Children know that they can and should always tell about bullying.

Children do not always tell when they are being bullied. Staff will use their knowledge of pupils to identify changes in their behaviour that might indicate bullying.

Staff are watchful of areas in the school where bullying may take place. Children know that they can and should always tell the member of staff on duty if they have a problem.

COMPUTER AND INTERNET MONITORING SOFTWARE

As a school, under the guidance of Worcestershire County Council, we have purchased forensic software from Smoothwall Ltd. This is a monitoring software which runs in the background on our server and captures screens containing potentially threatening or harmful words or phrases either typed into a computer or found within websites. The E-safety co-ordinator/ICT co-ordinator performs weekly checks to ensure any potential issues are dealt with accordingly. Class teachers are responsible for monitoring pupil's use of the internet during ICT lessons and teaching appropriate behaviour when using the internet as part of E-safety. Any matters of cyberbullying should be reported to the E-Safety co-ordinator.

PROCEDURES

Every member of staff will deal with reported cases as soon as they arise, seeking advice from senior staff where necessary.

Dealing with incidents:

1. Interview bullies and victims separately
2. Obtain witness information
3. Keep a written record of the incident, investigation and outcomes
4. Give feedback to the victim
5. Inform staff about the incident
6. Take action to prevent further incidents. Such action may include:
 - obtaining an apology
 - sanctions
 - informing parents
 - providing support for both victim and bully
 - monitoring.

ADVICE FOR CHILDREN

Children will be helped to deal with bullying and taught what to do if they are bullied:

- Tell the bully to stop
- Get away from the situation as quickly as possible
- Tell an adult straight away
- Tell your family
- Ask a friend to go with you if you don't want to go on your own
- Keep on speaking until someone listens
- When you tell, say clearly what happened, who was involved, who saw it happening
- If the bullying does not stop straight away, tell again and keep telling until it is sorted out

Children who see bullying happening can help stop it by:

- Not allowing someone to be deliberately left out of a group
- Not smiling or laughing at bullying behaviour
- Telling a member of staff what is happening
- Telling the bully to stop what they are doing
- Encouraging the victim to join in with games and activities

ADVICE FOR PARENTS

Parents and families have an important part to play in helping schools deal with bullying.

IF YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN BULLIED

- Talk calmly to your child about what has happened.
- Reassure your child that s/ he has done the right thing to tell you.
- Explain to your child that s/he should tell the teacher about any further incidents immediately.
- Talk calmly to the class teacher about the problems your child is having. Bear in mind that the teacher may not know anything about the incident or may have heard conflicting accounts.
- Stay in touch with school. Let us know if things improve as well as if problems continue.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BULLYING OTHER CHILDREN

Often parents are not aware that their child is involved in bullying.

Children sometimes bully because:

- they don't know it is wrong
- they are copying older brothers or sisters, or someone they admire
- they have not learnt other ways to mix with their school friends
- they are going through a difficult time and are acting out aggressive feelings

You can help your child to stop bullying.

- Talk with your child. Explain that what s/he is doing is unacceptable and makes other children unhappy.
- Discourage your child from using bullying behaviour or aggression at home or elsewhere.
- Show your child how to cope with difficult situations without using aggression.
- Show your child how to join in with other children without bullying.
- Keep in touch with school to see how things are going.
- Give lots of praise and encouragement every time your child is co-operative or kind to other people.

Safeguarding / Child Protection

All staff and Governors have received appropriate safeguarding and child protection training (September 2025). All staff have read the following:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025
- What to do if you're worried that a child is being abused
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Other related policies have been signposted such as Working Together to Safeguard Children, Anti-Bullying, Anti-Cyberbullying Policy, Behaviour Policy, Critical Incidents and Health & Safety etc.

Staff working with children should maintain an attitude of **'it could happen here'** where safeguarding is concerned. If staff have **any** concerns about a child's welfare, they should act upon them immediately. They should follow the school's policy and procedures and speak with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Miss Crawford) or one of the Deputy Safeguarding Leads (Mrs Kelly, Mrs Moorhouse or Mrs Lawrence). In the absence of these staff members, a member of the SLT should be contacted. All concerns should be acted upon and recorded on CPOMS.

Policy ratified by Governing Body