



ANTI-BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

Policy & Procedure No.

HR01

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Reference to

HR03 Employment Handbook

Safeguarding Policy

Please also refer to our Policy & procedure on: Equality and Diversity, Complaints and Representation and Staff Discipline, Conduct and Grievance Policy

1. Statement of Intent

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly, and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying or racism of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a Sharing school. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff. Any racist incidents must also be reported. We follow the Local Authority Policy on reporting these incidents.

We will not tolerate bullying of any kind and will carefully investigate and deal with appropriately.

2. What is Bullying?

Bullying is the repeated use of aggression, intimidation or coercion with the intention of hurting another person physically, mentally, socially, emotionally or with intent of taking advantage of their vulnerabilities. Bullying results in pain, suffering and/or distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional: being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical: pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Verbal: Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumors, teasing
- Cyber: All areas of internet, such as e-mail and internet chat room misuse. Mobile threats or abuse by text messaging, calls and/or social media platforms such as snapchat, Facebook etc. Misuse of associated technology i.e. camera and video facilities

The following types of bullying are also a hate crime:

- Racist: racial taunts, graffiti, gestures, cultural discrimination
- Sexual: unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic: because of, or focusing on, issues of sexuality
- Bullying someone because they have a disability

Seadown school takes seriously any reported incident of cyber and in person bullying and will investigate in accordance with policy and procedures.

3. Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts people to one degree or another and no one deserves to be a victim of it. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect.

The victims of bullying need to be made to feel safe and then supported through the restorative process.

Pupils who are bullying others need to be supported to enable them to understand how detrimental it can be for the victim, and to learn different ways in which to release their own Emotions positively.

We as a school have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

4. Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, proprietors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents/ carers should understand what bullying is.
- All governors, proprietors, 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/ carers 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/carers should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

5. Signs & Behaviours

A child 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 a child:

- Is frightened of walking/travelling 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 to self-harm 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 schoolwork
- Comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- Has possessions which are damaged or "go missing"
- Asks for money and starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- 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 is wrong
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- Is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- Is nervous and jumpy when a cyber- message is received
- Shows dramatic changes in behaviour

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated. If any of the signs and behaviour persist over time parents should inform the class teacher.

Bullying is not:

It is important to understand that bullying is not the odd occasion of falling out with peer, name calling, arguments or when the occasional trick or joke is played on someone. It is bullying if it is done several times on purpose. Children sometimes fall out or say things because they are upset. When occasional problems of this kind arise it is not classed as bullying. It is an important part of a child's development to learn how to manage a friendship breakdown, the odd name calling or childish prank. We all have to learn how to deal with these situations and develop social skills to repair these relationships. Staff will always support the children through this process and each incident will be taken seriously and dealt with in the same manner.

6. Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of every member of the school staff to report any suspicion of bullying to the class teacher. The class teacher will then inform the Senior Leadership Team who together will investigate. Where bullying is found to exist the SENCo and/or Deputy Headteacher and/or Headteacher must be informed as well as at least one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Officers. It will also be entered on Arbor or MyConcern.

It is the responsibility of every member of the school staff to report any incidence of racism. The class teacher must be informed as soon as possible and they will take a judgement on whether it is consistent and repeated and inform the Senior Leadership Team, or whether it is a one off act or lack of understanding and deal with it through the learning process within the classroom. It will also be entered on Arbor or MyConcern. If a racist incident is confirmed staff must inform the Headteacher who will log the incident and investigate as necessary.

Children will always be encouraged to share if they or another pupil is being bullied. Pupils can talk to any member of staff they feel comfortable with and that member of staff has a duty to report it to a lead staff member as outlined above.

6.1 The Governing Body

- The Governing Body support the Headteacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying and racism from our school. This policy statement makes it very clear that the Governing Body do not allow bullying and racism to take place in our school, and that any incidents of bullying and racism that do occur are reported up in the tri-annual governance report along with actions taken.
- The Governing Body monitor the incidents of bullying and racism that occur and reviews the effectiveness of the school policy regularly. The Governing Body require the Headteacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying and racism and to report to the Governing Body on request about the effectiveness of school anti-bullying and racism strategies.
- The Governing Body respond within ten days to any request from a parent/carer to investigate incidents of bullying and racism. In all cases, the Governing Body notifies the Headteacher and asks them to investigate the case and to report back to a representative of the Governing Body.

6.2 Headteacher

- It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to implement the school anti-bullying and anti-racism strategy and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are aware of the school policy and know how to deal with incidents of bullying and racism.
- The Headteacher reports to the Governing Body about the effectiveness of the anti-bullying and anti-racism policy on request.
- The Headteacher ensures that all pupils know that bullying and racism is wrong, and that it is unacceptable behaviour in this school. The Headteacher draws the attention of pupils to this fact at suitable moments. For example, if an incident occurs, the Headteacher may decide to use assembly as a forum in which to discuss with other pupils why this behaviour was wrong, and the ways everyone can prevent it happening again.
- The Headteacher ensures that all staff receive enough training to be equipped to deal with all incidents of bullying and racism.
- When an allegation is made of bullying and/or racism the Headteacher will investigate immediately and incidents will be entered in the appropriate systems. The situation will be monitored and discussed with parents/carers if necessary.
- The Headteacher sets the school climate of mutual support and praise for success, so making bullying and racism less likely. When children feel they are important and belong to a friendly and welcoming school, bullying and racism are less likely to be part of their behaviour.

6.3 Teachers

- Teachers in our school take all forms of bullying and racism seriously and intervene to prevent incidents from taking place. They complete written records of any incidents that happen in their class and that they are aware of in and out of school.
- If teachers witness an act of bullying and racism, they do all they can to support the pupil who is being bullied as well as to support the perpetrator. They will also report the incident immediately to the senior leadership team as stated above.
- We record all incidents of bullying and racism that occur inside/outside lesson time, either at break times, near the school or on the children's way home or to school. If any adult witnesses an act of bullying and racism, they should record the event.
- If, as teachers, we become aware of any bullying and racism taking place between members of a class, we deal with the issue immediately. This may involve counselling and support for the victim of the bullying and racism, and sanction for the pupil who has carried out the bullying and racism.
- We spend time talking to the pupil who has bullied: we explain why the action of the pupil was wrong, and we endeavour to help the pupil change their behaviour in future. If a child is repeatedly involved in bullying and racism against other children, they should follow the procedures set out above. We may then invite the pupil's parents/carers into the school to discuss the situation. *In more extreme cases, for example where these initial discussions have proven ineffective, the Headteacher may contact external support agencies such as the social services.*

6.4 Parents & Carers

- Parents/Carers who are concerned that their child might be being bullied, or who suspect that their child may be the perpetrator of bullying and/or racism, should contact their child's class teacher immediately.
- Parents should not try to sort out the problem themselves or encourage their child to be a 'bully' back.
- Parents/Carers have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying and racism policy and to actively encourage their child to be a positive member of the school.

7. Procedures

1. If bullying is seen in school, staff should report it to the class teacher (if he/she is not the person who has witnessed the bullying) and those that witnessed or were disclosed to, will record low level bullying such as name calling on Arbor. The class teacher must then report it to the senior leadership team and the DSL's / DSO's so they can track it and if necessary, upgrade it to MyConcern.
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents may be reported directly to the Headteacher and the DSL's. This repetitive bullying or more serious bullying incident/s will also be reported on MyConcern by the member of staff who witnessed the event or was first told of the event.
3. In serious cases of persistent bullying, parents will be informed and may be asked to come into a meeting to discuss the problem.
4. If necessary and appropriate, the police or another external agency may be consulted.
5. Bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated, and the bullying stopped as quickly as possible.
6. Support for the perpetrator to help them alter their behavior will also be given.

8. Outcomes

1. The bully may be asked to genuinely apologize. The parents/carers of the bully may be requested to meet with the Class Teacher or Headteacher. Other consequences may take place. *Please also refer to our Policy & Procedure on: Positive Management of Behaviour.*
2. In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion may be considered.
3. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled using 'Restorative Justice'
4. The Headteacher should be made aware of the incidents.
5. All incidents will be logged.
6. After the incident/incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

9. Prevention

We will use KIDSCAPE methods of helping children to prevent bullying. Bullying is unacceptable behavior and children need to be aware that to inform their teacher about it is the best form of action to stop it. Our school

rules set out the behavior that is acceptable for our children. Children are educated on this through our PSHE curriculum and through assemblies.

When appropriate, prevention strategies may include:

- Writing a set of school rules
- Whole school Anti- Bullying sessions as part of the PSHE curriculum and Safeguarding
- Writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- Regular circle times in class
- Peer buddying where appropriate
- Reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- Making up role-plays
- Having discussions about bullying and why it matters
- Using 'Restorative Justice'
- Channel/Prevent talks/assemblies may be organized at various times through the school year.

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)	020 7354 8321
Children's Legal Centre	0845 345 4345
KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4)	0845 1 205 204
Parentline Plus	0808 800 2222
Youth Access	020 8772 9900
Bullying Online	www.bullying.co.uk

Please visit the KIDSCAPE website www.kidscape.org.uk for further support, links and advice.

10. West Sussex Hate Crime Project

Seadown School is working with West Sussex Police to raise awareness of Hate Crime. Hate crime awareness week is during the first half of October – senior school pupils will be made aware of this in accordance to their abilities and SEND requirements.

10.1 What is a hate crime?

Hate crimes are any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by (because of) hostility or prejudice towards that person's:

- Disability or perceived disability
- Race or ethnicity or perceived race or ethnicity
- Religion or belief, or perceived religion or belief (this also includes those who have no religion or belief)
- Sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation
- Transgender identity or perceived Transgender identity
- This can be committed against a person or property

A victim does not have to be a member of the group at which the hostility is targeted. In fact, anyone could be a victim of a hate crime. For example, if someone shouts homophobic abuse at you, you are still the victim of a homophobic hate crime, whatever your sexual orientation.

Hate incidents can feel like crimes to those who suffer them and often escalate to crimes or tension in a community. For this reason, the police are concerned about incidents and you can use this site to report non-crime hate incidents. The police can only prosecute when the law is broken but can work with partners to try and prevent any escalation in seriousness.

10.2 Reporting hate crime

To report hate crime, call the Sussex Police Contact Centre on 101 or visit your local police station.
In an emergency, call 999 immediately.

It's an emergency if:

- If life is threatened
- If people are injured
- If offenders are nearby
- If immediate action is required.

END

POSITION	Headteacher	NAME	S	SIGNATURE	S. Norton	DATE	20/01/2025
POSITION	Governor	NAME	Steve Alexander	SIGNATURE	S. ALEX	DATE	18/02/25